



5 October 2016

Guy Barnett, Minister for Building and Construction

Will Green and White finally apologise over false illness cluster claims?

The release of hundreds of pages of information about a WorkSafe investigation should finally cause Bryan Green and Rebecca White to apologise for their false claims of an illness cluster.

In July, I released a letter I received from the chief executive of WorkSafe Tasmania who advised that an investigation into mould detected at the Royal Hobart Hospital – requested by my predecessor – found a claimed illness cluster “did not exist”.

I made clear in my statement that I would release this correspondence, and my office did provide it to a number of media organisations at their request.

After repeatedly asserting the existence of this illness cluster, Ms White was clearly not satisfied at having her claims proven wrong and filed Right to Information requests with both the Department of Health and Human Services and WorkSafe.

Yesterday, Ms White received more than 800 pages of information detailing the extensive and thorough investigation by WorkSafe that found no evidence of an illness cluster.

This information, I am advised, confirms the veracity of WorkSafe’s findings.

It must be remembered that Mr Green and Ms White did not pose their claims of an illness cluster as questions, but as statements, and in Parliament.

Ms White went so far as to say: “You have responsibility for the safety of these workers yet you chose to do nothing and **exposed them to very dangerous conditions.**”

The Government and our agencies have been entirely transparent on this matter and responded appropriately.

It is past time that Ms White and her leader apologise for their disgraceful scaremongering and acknowledge that their claims were wrong.

The information released by WorkSafe can be found on the Department of Justice Disclosure Register at: www.justice.tas.gov.au/about/right_to_information/disclosure_register

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