



Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance  
Services  
Minister for Women

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Mr Neil Laurie  
Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliament  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to petition number 4094-24, in relation to methamphetamine contaminated properties, which was tabled in Parliament on 20 August 2024.

Queensland Health recognises that premises formerly used as clandestine drug laboratories for the preparation of illicit drugs, including methamphetamine, have the potential to pose a health risk to occupants. It is important that persons who believe that they may have been exposed to such chemical contamination seek appropriate medical advice.

In Queensland, the chemical contamination in premises that have been used as clandestine laboratories is deemed a 'public health risk' under the *Public Health Act 2005* (the Act). Local governments are responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Act to protect the health and wellbeing of the public by ensuring that the risk to health is reduced to an acceptable level.

The Australian Government's *Clandestine Drug Laboratory Remediation Guidelines – (2011)* (<https://www.industry.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-06/ clandestine-drug-lab-remediation-guidelines.pdf>) and the Environmental Health Standing Committee (enHealth) – *Guidance on Clandestine Drug Laboratories and Public Health Risks – (2017)* (<https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2022/07/enhealth-guidance-guidance-on-clandestine-drug-laboratories-and-public-health-risks.pdf>) provide guidance on the assessment and remediation of sites formerly used to manufacture illicit drugs. These documents are considered best practice for the assessment and remediation of former clandestine laboratory sites.

In partnership with local governments and other state government agencies, Queensland Health has also prepared a guidance document available to regulators who undertake regulatory activities in relation to clandestine drug laboratories. The Guideline is based on the above national guidance documents and provides a framework for local governments to enforce remediation of former illegal drug laboratory sites. The Act provides for a range of regulatory interventions, including the issuing of a public health order to the person responsible for the public health risk. The public health order specifies the actions required to be taken to ensure that the property is safe to live in.

Queensland Health has also worked with Queensland's Residential Tenancies Authority to encourage property owners to exercise appropriate diligence checks when taking out an insurance policy for their rental properties. If appropriate insurance is obtained, the property owner may be able to make an insurance claim for any related remediation costs.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Fentiman', with a stylized, flowing script.

**Shannon Fentiman MP**

Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services

Minister for Women

Member for Waterford