

## Australian Hospital Guidelines for individuals with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity

These MCS Hospital Guidelines can be found from the following links

**Victoria** 2011: <http://docs.health.vic.gov.au/docs/doc/Multiple-Chemical-Sensitivity:-A-guide-for-Victorian-hospitals>

**South Australia** 2010: [http://www.sacfs.asn.au/news/2010/07/07\\_24\\_mcs\\_guidelines\\_for\\_sa\\_hospitals.htm](http://www.sacfs.asn.au/news/2010/07/07_24_mcs_guidelines_for_sa_hospitals.htm)

**ACT** 2012: <http://www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=dlpubpoldoc&document=2787>

**Western Australia:** [http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/publications/tailedpapers.nsf/displaypaper/3814445c4f180533eea73781482579f2000ec798/\\$file/4445.pdf](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/publications/tailedpapers.nsf/displaypaper/3814445c4f180533eea73781482579f2000ec798/$file/4445.pdf)

In **Queensland**, The Royal Brisbane Hospital and The Royal Women's Hospital have rescinded their MCS Hospital Guidelines. The Queensland Health Position Statement on MCS (July 2011) can be found at <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/psq/documents/pos-statement-chemical.pdf>. And the recommended process

for managing people who report to have MCS <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/psq/documents/mgt-chemical-proc.pdf>

Basically it states that

It was found that there are a myriad differences in clinical opinion among Queensland Health clinical staff (reflecting international medical practitioners). This combined with the absence of consensus that MCS is a recognised clinical condition – no definition, diagnostic procedures or effective treatments, posed difficulties for Queensland Health in recognising MCS in a Queensland Health policy context.

Instead Queensland Health has adopted a policy based on that in the UK, where MCS is not categorised as a recognised clinical syndrome. The UK Policy recognises that those identifying themselves as suffering from MCS have health needs that require attending medical facilities – and therefore should received individualised medical and psychological assessment and treatment as determined by the treating doctor.

Queensland Health has adopted this policy and in Queensland health facilities the process for management of patients who identify themselves as suffering from MCS is up to the attending medical officer who will determine what is appropriate to manage such patients.

People who identify themselves as suffering from MCS may need to attend medical facilities and it is inevitable that they will be exposed to fragrance or chemical substance that may cause a reaction. Queensland Health does acknowledged that their position statement is inadequate for the needs of those who identify themselves as suffering from MCS BUT in the absence of effective treatments and interventions (eg fragrance free facilities) Queensland Health does not endorse such interventions such as a fragrance free policy for all Queensland Health Facilities. They will not implement a fragrance free policy amongst all Queensland Health care facilities.