

Fracking submission

Midwest Optimal Health

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14<sup>th</sup> March 2018

I provide a NeurOptimal Neurofeedback service to our region that balances the central nervous system of our body; the simpler way to describe my service is brain training.

My service is a holistic approach to improving individual's quality of life by including education about healthy eating plans, exercise and the importance of looking after our gut bacteria. Science has now proven impacts on our brain function if gut health is not working properly.

My work has now evolved that I have been studying regenerative agriculture and linking the need for agricultural activities to embrace reconnecting to the laws of nature and learning how to farm without acidic in-organic fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides, pesticides to further improve the health of our farming communities and the food that they grow for consumers.

Our family farm is now five years down the track of converting to regenerative farming and we voted "yes", along with 96.4% of our community, to live in a gas field free area when Dandaragan Groundwater Protection did their community survey in 2016.

I raise, with this enquiry, in Western Australia there is no central health data system for medical practitioners to report all diseases. Currently there is a system that requires the reporting of infectious diseases only.

If a data base existed, as it does in America and most European countries, a pattern could be picked up if an area starts showing above the state/national average of conditions such as cancer, neurological conditions, immune disorders, mental health and so on.

The general thought in our region, is if this was now in place, it would clearly show that our population would be registering higher than your national average for cancer, neurological and immune disorders.

Since the end of World War Two, the Green Revolution started to evolve and our agricultural practises have become industrialised with a high dependence on in-organic fertilisers, chemicals and fossil fuels with the over working of our soil and clearing of native vegetation.

**While submissions will no doubt be asking for base line measurements in water, air, soil and health of humans and animals, I am asking that this panel discuss the need for a Central Health Data Base to collect all diseases that medical practitioners diagnose to allow traceability and accountability for activities that may be causing health issues in our population.**

The chemicals used in hydraulic fracking are of a major concern to me, particularly as there have been no studies on the result of what is the outcome when different chemicals are mixed together, referred to as a cocktail chemical mix.

In the book, "Call of the Reed Warbler" by Charles Massy, he quotes (from recent scientific papers released in the United States) that glyphosate will be recognised as a bigger health risk than tobacco. (page 473 -478) <https://www.penguin.com.au/books/call-of-the-reed-warbler-a-new-agriculture-a-new-earth-9780702253416>

That is an alarming statement and the question arises as to what have our scientists, health authorities, governments been doing to track this and protect, not just farmers, but consumers.

It is claimed that our health budget will financially cripple our country as we go forward and I am amazed that there is such a small percentage of our health budget spent on preventative health. Can that question be explained?

**Fugitive emissions from gas fields** are another issue for me and it is proven time and time again that simple human error and erosion of gas wells, pipelines, fittings are a factor in this. Refer -

**Compendium of Scientific, Medical and Media Findings demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking (Unconventional Gas and Oil Extraction) (Health Professionals of NY)**

<https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/122/4/ehp.1306722.pdf>

**I finally refer to Health Impacts.** The listing of evidence there is confronting and that alone demonstrates that fracking should not be allowed to go ahead.

**Refer. *A review of the public health impacts of unconventional natural gas development, PJ Saunders and others***

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27921191>

#### **Abstract**

**The public health impact of hydraulic fracturing remains a high profile and controversial issue. While there has been a recent surge of published papers, it remains an under-researched area despite being possibly the most substantive change in energy production since the advent of the fossil fuel economy. We review the evidence of effects in five public health domains with a particular focus on the UK: exposure, health, socio-economic, climate change and seismicity. While the latter would seem not to be of significance for the UK, we conclude that serious gaps in our understanding of the other potential impacts persist together with some concerning signals in the literature and legitimate uncertainties derived from first principles. There is a fundamental requirement for high-quality epidemiological research incorporating real exposure measures, improved understanding of methane leakage throughout the process, and a rigorous analysis of the UK social and economic impacts. In the absence of such intelligence, we**

**consider it prudent to incentivise further research and delay any proposed developments in the UK. Recognising the political realities of the planning and permitting process, we make a series of recommendations to protect public health in the event of hydraulic fracturing being approved in the UK.**

Mental health is an area of interest for me because of my neurofeedback service delivery and many of my clients express their concerns for their families and communities should we be subjected to fracking.

Agriculture is an intrinsic and vital part of our country and it is imperative that our health and personal wellbeing be put before that of an industry that is in its dying days; I see fracking companies racing against time before renewables take over.

Our government needs to place its resources towards finding clean sources of energy and supporting agriculture to grow the health of our nation. This can be done by educating farmers how to grow nutritional enhanced, clean healthy food. These practises will ensure the sustainability of the current population that inhabits our planet.

I believe that our planet will survive climate change but I doubt that humans will survive unless we make major changes to our current practises.

We look to your enquiry panel and government to lead this change.

Regards

Christine Smith

Neurofeedback Practitioner

End of submission.