

South Australian Task Force on Multiple Chemical Sensitivity

DISABILITY ACCESS RALLY RECOGNISING **MULTIPLE CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY**

On International No Pesticides Day

FRIDAY, 2 DECEMBER, 2012

12 MIDDAY – 2 PM

*EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION
30 CURRIE STREET, ADELAIDE*

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity is a chronic medical condition where people are made sick by common chemicals in everyday products, often at levels assessed as “safe” by chemical regulators. MCS can be extremely disabling. Around 2% of the population are no longer able to work due to MCS, while around 6% are severely affected.

People with MCS are routinely denied access to essential services due to chemical barriers, general ignorance and widespread discrimination. Safe access to health care is particularly difficult.

In 2005 a Parliamentary Inquiry into MCS found that the herbicides used widely by local government in city maintenance are “causing and triggering the symptoms associated with MCS.” Despite this finding these herbicides are still used widely.

In 2006 the state government developed MCS disability access guidelines for government buildings. But they have not been adopted across public services.

The rally calls on the state government to:

- 1) End the widespread cosmetic use of herbicides in city maintenance by local government authorities.
- 2) Fully adopt, promote and monitor existing MCS disability access guidelines in all public services.

International No-Pesticides Day commemorates one of the world's worst industrial disasters caused by the leakage of methyl isocyanate gas at Union Carbide's pesticide factory in Bhopal, India, on 2 and 3 December, 1984. The tragedy caused over 11,000 deaths and more than 500,000 chemical injuries, many of which resulted in permanent total or partial disability.

OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE DISABILITY ACCESS NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH MCS PLEASE AVOID WEARING PERFUME, AFTER SHAVE, ESSENTIAL OILS, OR OTHER HIGHLY FRAGRANCED PRODUCTS AT THIS EVENT

Contact Peter Evans, Convenor, SA Task Force on MCS Phone: 8240 5084 Email: satfmcs@live.com.au