

## Gemma Larkins

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**From:** Nathan Wahl  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 July 2018 1:23 PM  
**To:** bruce.lehrmann@health.gov.au; Minister McKenzie DLO  
**Cc:** \$ARPANSA Parliamentary Correspondence; Tone Doyle; Ivan Williams  
**Subject:** ANSTO Outage - further statement from ANSTO [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** Statement - Generation production at ANSTO\_(Monday final)\_.pdf

Hi Bruce and Aaron,

FYI ANSTO have published an update on their technetium-99m generator production the other day. The issue is still just considered a maintenance issue, so ARPANSA has no regulatory concerns. As mentioned, ANSTO would be managing the issue themselves directly with end users, and from a Health portfolio perspective we understand that Prof Murphy has requested TGA take the lead in monitoring the issue.

Cheers,  
Nathan

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**Nathan Wahl**  
Assistant Director  
Government and International Relations  
Office of the CEO

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## STATEMENT

*Monday 2, July 2018*

### Technetium-99m (Tc-99m) Generator distribution to Australian hospitals and clinics

Over the weekend ANSTO received Technetium-99m (Tc-99m) generators from Lantheus Medical Imaging Inc. (LMI) in the US and has distributed to a number of hospitals as well as Global Medical Solutions Australia (GMS) sites across Australia.

This morning a second wave of deliveries (33 generators in total) will be distributed to other metropolitan and rural trauma hospitals for arrival Tuesday.

An additional wave of deliveries will be distributed tomorrow to further hospitals and clinics for arrival Wednesday. ANSTO is expecting additional shipments into Australia throughout this week. ANSTO's customers are being advised of their expected delivery time.

Last week a mechanical fault to the transfer conveyor within the Technetium-99m (Tc-99m) generator production facility impacted ANSTO's ability to supply generators to customers. This mechanical fault has not affected other nuclear medicine products from ANSTO.

On many occasions in the past ANSTO has stepped up to provide for the international market when supply provisions have gone down. It's now Australia's turn to put up our hand for help to limit the impact on our customers. Whilst repairs are progressing, ANSTO has placed another order with LMI this morning to ensure supply for next week as well.

ANSTO's specialist engineers will continue to work on repairing the mechanical fault to the transfer conveyor. When we have more information, we will provide an update on when we expect to resume local production.

ANSTO would like to thank LMI and GMS Australia for their support through this process and their commitment to ensuring supply of Technetium-99m to Australian patients.

For more information, please contact your ANSTO customer relations representative on 1800 251 572 or [health@ansto.gov.au](mailto:health@ansto.gov.au)

## Gemma Larkins

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**From:** James Wheaton  
**Sent:** Monday, 2 July 2018 2:53 PM  
**To:** Bruce Lehrmann (bruce.lehrmann@health.gov.au); minister.mckenzie.dlo@health.gov.au  
**Cc:** Ivan Williams; Carl-Magnus Larsson; Tone Doyle; Ryan Hemsley; Nathan Wahl; Shailla Van Raad; \$ARPANSA Parliamentary Correspondence  
**Subject:** ARPANSA weekly update - 2/7/18 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Bruce and Aaron,

Please find below information on ARPANSA for this week which may be of interest to you.

### Current Issues

- The CEO issued a **Direction to ANSTO** last week under Section 41(1A) of the ARPANS Act, in response to the recent safety events at ANSTO Health. Our targeted date for tabling is 17 July. Further details in **MS18-001400**.
- PM&C last week contacted the Dept. of Health (which initially approached ARPANSA) about the impact of a disruption to the nuclear medicine supply in Australia (e.g. to hospitals, for radiotherapy treatments) as a result of a mechanical breakdown of a conveyor belt at ANSTO Health's production facility. We advised the Dept. of Health that ARPANSA is aware of the issue, which is not related to the OPAL Reactor and does not appear safety-related (and therefore is not a regulatory issue from ARPANSA's perspective). The Therapeutic Goods Administration is handling queries within the Health portfolio in relation to the medical impact of the disruption to production.

Section 22 Irrelevant

### Media

#### *Articles:*

[Sydney's Lucas Heights reactor breakdown affects patients across NSW – ABC News](#)

[Fault at Lucas Heights nuclear reactor halts production of medical isotope – The Guardian](#)

[Technetium-99m \(Tc-99m\) Gentech® Generator production disruption at ANSTO – ANSTO \(published on ANZSNM website – see attached\)](#)

Section 22 Irrelevant

#### *Enquiries/appearances:*

- Thursday 28/06 – ABC inquiry about the cessation of nuclear medicine (technetium-99m) production at the ANSTO facility due to a conveyor belt breakdown. We worked with ANSTO on this.

Section 22 Irrelevant

Section 22 Irrelevant

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Section 22 Irrelevant

Kind regards,  
James

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Office of the CEO

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## Gemma Larkins

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**From:** Nathan Wahl  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 June 2018 12:49 PM  
**To:** Minister McKenzie DLO  
**Cc:** James Wheaton; ARPANSA Parliamentary Correspondence  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT: S47F - urgent email enquiry forthcoming [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Aaron,

Health have confirmed that TGA is taking the lead in this one, and the relevant individual there is Tony Gill, Medical Officer, Pharmacovigilance and Special Access Branch.

Though note that ANSTO have indicated they have largely been engaging with end users (e.g. hospitals) and some state and territory health depts.

Please don't hesitate letting us know if you need anything further.

Cheers,  
Nathan

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**Nathan Wahl**  
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[www.arpansa.gov.au](http://www.arpansa.gov.au)



**From:** Minister McKenzie DLO <Minister.McKenzie.DLO@health.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 June 2018 12:16 PM  
**To:** Nathan Wahl <nathan.wahl@arpansa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT: 47 F - urgent email enquiry forthcoming [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Great. Thanks heaps Nathan!

Kind regards

Aaron Stone | Departmental Liaison Officer

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**Office of Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie**  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals  
Minister for Rural Health  
Minister for Sport  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Senator for Victoria  
Parliament House M148 CANBERRA ACT 2600  
Ph: 02 6277 7495, Email: [minister.mckenzie.dlo@health.gov.au](mailto:minister.mckenzie.dlo@health.gov.au)

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**From:** Nathan Wahl [mailto:nathan.wahl@arpana.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 June 2018 12:06 PM  
**To:** Minister McKenzie DLO  
**Cc:** James Wheaton; Tone Doyle; Ryan Hemsley  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT: [REDACTED] - urgent email enquiry forthcoming [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Aaron,

In short we are aware of it and it isn't a regulatory issue (see this article: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-28/lucas-heights-reactor-breakdown-to-affect-patients-across-nsw/9920208>). That said I'm trying to confirm who in Health portfolio has the lead on managing the issue and is best equipped to provide a response.

I will come back to you as soon as I know.

Cheers,  
Nathan

**From:** Minister McKenzie DLO <Minister.McKenzie.DLO@health.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 June 2018 11:33 AM  
**To:** James Wheaton <james.wheaton@arpana.gov.au>; Nathan Wahl <nathan.wahl@arpana.gov.au>  
**Subject:** URGENT: FW: [REDACTED] - urgent email enquiry forthcoming [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Importance:** High

Hey guys

Are you able to shed any light regarding the below? We've been asked to get back to Hunt's Office by COB Monday.

Kind regards

Aaron Stone | Departmental Liaison Officer

Office of Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie  
Deputy Leader of The Nationals  
Minister for Rural Health  
Minister for Sport  
Minister for Regional Communications  
Senator for Victoria  
Parliament House M148 CANBERRA ACT 2600  
Ph: 02 6277 7495, Email: [minister.mckenzie.dlo@health.gov.au](mailto:minister.mckenzie.dlo@health.gov.au)

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**From:** Minister Hunt DLO  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 June 2018 11:19 AM  
**To:** Minister McKenzie DLO  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] - urgent email enquiry forthcoming [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Aaron,

Is this something managed by your office (under the banner of the APRANZA?)

If so, could you please treat this as an urgent request for information at the request of our office?

**Rez Berman**  
Departmental Liaison Officer

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**Office for the Hon Greg Hunt MP**

Minister For Health

Parliament House Suite M1-41 CANBERRA ACT 2600

T: 02 6277 7220

*I acknowledge the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. I pay my respects to them and to elders both past and present.*

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**From:** [REDACTED] 47F

**Sent:** Friday, 29 June 2018 11:10 AM

**To:** Minister Hunt

**Subject:** unavailability of radio isotope used in nuclear bone testing australia wide [SEC=No Protective Marking]

[REDACTED]  
47F

[REDACTED] after some further enquiries we were told there was a shortage of radio isotopes, we then looked at going interstate to have these tests but were told the shortage was australia wide. to date we have not been given any definite time as to the availability of the radio isotope which comes from lucas heights. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 47F [REDACTED]

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**From:** HUTTON, Briony

**Sent:** Friday, 29 June 2018 10:46 AM

**To:** Minister Hunt DLO

**Subject:** [REDACTED] 47F - urgent email enquiry forthcoming [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi DLOs,

[REDACTED] 47F will send an email shortly with an urgent enquiry.

I said we would endeavour to get back to [REDACTED] 47F with the information [REDACTED] 47F needs by Monday.

[REDACTED] 47F requires a nuclear bone scan for metastatic [REDACTED] 47F cancer, but [REDACTED] 47F scan has been delayed due to a national shortage of the radioactive isotopes required to run the scan.

They received advice of this national shortage from two separate imaging facilities.

[REDACTED] 47F

Would you please ask the Department to look into [REDACTED] 47F's email and respond by Monday, if possible?

Thanks,

**Briony Hutton**

**Receptionist, EA to Chief of Staff, Assistant Adviser**

Office of the Hon Greg Hunt MP | Minister for Health | Member for Flinders

Suite M1.41, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600

Ph: 02 6277 7220, Mob: [REDACTED] s 47F -

[briony.hutton@health.gov.au](mailto:briony.hutton@health.gov.au)

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RELEASED BY ARPANSA UNDER FOI NOVEMBER 2018