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Media release:

MMG provides feedback on workforce testing

In December 2009, MMG committed to undertake a comprehensive bio-monitoring program of its workforce at Rosebery to screen for occupational exposures to four key metals – lead, cadmium, arsenic and thallium. At the time, MMG also indicated that the testing program would be offered to any family members of employees and contractors living in Rosebery so that MMG could have comfort there were no potential 'take home' contamination issues.

Today, MMG has written to all Rosebery residents to provide an overview of the results of this bio-monitoring program. MMG is continuing to provide feedback on the individual results of this program to its workforce and participating family members.

"This was an extremely comprehensive testing program conducted by an independent occupational and environmental physician and associated pathology laboratory," said Mr Lamb.

In total, 418 individual tests were conducted. 375 of these were MMG Rosebery employees or contractors and 43 were family members.

"The results are very pleasing", said MMG Rosebery General Manager, Mr John Lamb, "as they indicate that the levels of our workers and their family members are below occupational exposure levels and population reference values for all the metals tested.

Of particular note are the blood lead results for 14 children under 15 years of age whose results all came back under 5 micrograms per decilitre. This is less than half the community action level of 10 micrograms per decilitre."

While some caution needs to be taken in extending the findings of this sample to the wider Rosebery community, MMG believes that, because its workforce and their families are generally more likely to have been exposed to heavy metals than members of the wider community, Rosebery residents can take some comfort that the testing of this group has overwhelmingly returned results that are below all the relevant reference values.

In the meantime, MMG continues to carry out analysis on the environmental samples taken earlier this year and feeding this information back to the individual residents who participated in the program.

Media enquiries:

Sally Cox

Communications Manager

T 61 3 9288 0850 / 61 417 144 524

E sally.cox@mmgroupltd.com