

## REACTIONS TO CLEANING CHEMICALS

Recently the Victorian Ambulance Union Incorporated (VAU) have received complaints from ESTA members and AV members working at communication centres about physical reactions to cleaning chemicals being used to clean their workstations.

ESTA employs contract cleaners to provide cleaning services at the communication centres. These cleaners use several chemical chemicals to clean workstations, screens, phones, chairs, kitchen facilities and rest rooms.

Members have reported developing headaches, suffering irritated skin and eyes and developing respiratory symptoms including asthma, coughing and shortness of breath following the use of these chemicals by cleaners.

It is important that you inform your Health and Safety Representative (HSR) and the VAU if you experience any reaction to these strong chemicals.

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for each chemical should be visible and accessible in the workplace so that members can be properly informed of any risk to health and safety that may arise.

Incident reports should also be filled out for any reactions that are experienced by members.

**If you develop any symptoms after being exposed to cleaning chemicals at ESTA, please inform the VAU via email to [memberqueries@vau.org.au](mailto:memberqueries@vau.org.au), with the subject line "Reaction to chemicals".**

In Unity.



**Danny Hill**  
**General Secretary**  
Victorian Ambulance Union



**Olga Bartasek**  
**Assistant Secretary**  
Victorian Ambulance Union