The Honourable Sarah Courtney

Minister for Health.

PO Box 5140,

Launceston

Tas. 7250.

*sarah.courtney@parliament.tas.gov.au*

Dear Sarah,

**Reusing single-use PPE Masks/Respirators**

This is to confirm my telephone conversation with your office on the 31st March 2020 in relation to the Examiner article mentioning reuse of masks.

[*https://www.examiner.com.au/story/6701967/face-masks-at-lgh-could-be-re-used-if-demand-spikes/*](https://www.examiner.com.au/story/6701967/face-masks-at-lgh-could-be-re-used-if-demand-spikes/)

The United States is considering going down this track as their supplies dwindle and a study in relation to this has surfaced. It would appear Australia is not in a similar position.

[*https://www.n95decon.org/*](https://www.n95decon.org/)

Please note the very substantial [Disclaimer](https://www.n95decon.org/disclaimer) attached to this article.

Also please be aware of the fact that AS/NZS standards are current for the design and use of this equipment and re-use does not form part of our standards.

**AS/NZS 1715:2009 Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective equipment.**

**AS/NZS 1716:2012 Respiratory protective devices.**

Australia has an emergency stockpile of PPEs for a pandemic such as Covid-19 and is working to ensure we produce our own PPE of up to 200 million by years end:-

[Army deployed to Lemnos to help Australia’s only mask factory](https://www.sheppnews.com.au/news/2020/03/18/1089249/army-deployed-to-lemnos-to-help-australias-only-mask-factory);

[Queensland’s Premier announcing yesterday 60,000 masks in eight weeks’ time](https://twitter.com/i/status/1246661483791962114).

Then we have Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt’s announcement last night on [60Minutes](https://www.9now.com.au/60-minutes/2020/episode-9?welcome) that a further 30 million masks have arrived to replenish the stockpile and 10 million will be disturbed this week to front-line workers.

It is excellent that health staff are being proactive and looking ahead during this pandemic but as a former health worker involved in sterilizing processes I do not believe re-using certified single use disposables is the way to go.

The very name of PERSONAL Protective Equipment does not lend to this.

Hoping the above information may be of some use and your response would be appreciated.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Clive Stott

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6th April 2020