



**MICHELLE MULVIHILL**

**OBJECT**

Submission ID: 213839

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: Social impacts, Other issues
Location: New South Wales 2575	
Attachment: N/A	

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**MENTAL HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY WILL WORSEN.**

*I am a Doctor of Psychology with forty years experience in the mental health field in Australia and have lived in the Southern Highlands for the past 10 years. My parents lived in Berrima during the 1940's-1950's.*

*I am extremely concerned about the PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS on residents at the establishment of the Plastics recycling Facility in Moss Vale. For years we have been warned about the dangers of pollution and climate change but one effect is neglected: impact to our brains. New Research is studying the correlation between increased cases of mental illness and exposure to contaminated air and water sources in fence line communities and beyond, depending on wind and water direction. Phthalates and other chemicals found directly in plastic waste may be linked to an increased risk for developing depression, anxiety, ADD and/or psychotic symptoms such as those found in schizophrenia. This is primarily due to the disruption of healthy brain development and hormone regulation. The presence of these toxins worsen neurocognitive and behavioural outcomes in children and contribute to cognitive decline and dementias such as those associated with Parkinson's Disease. Short and long-term health hazards from respiratory symptoms can lead to adverse neurological effects including stress and generalised anxiety disorder. Some laboratory experiments suggest microplastics increase brain inflammation and cell damage, alter gene expression and change brain structure.*

*Psychological and medical studies conducted in 2017 confirmed that residents located closest to a plastic recycling facility (within one kilometre) were more likely to experience mucosal symptoms (eg irritation of the eyes, nose, and/or respiratory tract) and cutaneous symptoms (eg rashes).*

*The toxins from the Moss Vale Plastic Recycling Facility can lead to mental health problems for people in our community. These toxins can also negatively impact our physical health by contributing to chronic fatigue, lowered metabolism and more.*

*The effect on the MENTAL HEALTH of children and adults cannot be ignored or omitted from any Planning Report.*

*I cannot see any reference to it in relation to PlasRefine.*

*The residents of the Southern highlands do not want further mental health problems, especially those that could be eradicated by better planning. NO resident would wish to expose themselves or their children to worsening mental health.*

*Toxic environment anxiety will increase in our communities should this planned pollutant go ahead.*

*Thank you.*

*All academic reference material available upon request.*