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### **New analysis from environmental consultancy debunks gas and asthma link**

A new comprehensive report from a renowned environmental consultancy group has debunked the false narrative from the all-electrification lobby that cooking with gas is unsafe and found there is little evidence supporting the myth that using gas stovetops leads to an increase in respiratory illnesses.

Instead, the in-depth analysis by Catalyst Environmental Solutions, a full-service environmental consulting firm based in the United States, reveals the type of food being cooked is a far more important factor in determining health outcomes than whether gas or electric stoves were used to cook it.

The report, released on March 2, highlights the significant mismatch between studies used by the electrification lobby to inform policy decisions and the actual evidence behind those claims.

The analysis, "The Effects of Cooking on Residential Indoor Air Quality: A Critical Review of the Literature with an Emphasis on the Use of Natural Gas Appliances," is an in-depth review of peer-reviewed studies and government assessments that have been wrongly cited that natural gas cooking leads to asthma.

Quoting from the Catalyst study, GAMAA's President Ross Jamieson noted that "when it comes to the indoor air quality of cooking with electricity or natural gas, the health driver is what you are cooking, not the fuel you use to cook it".

And the most effective method to protect your health is to provide ventilation during cooking," report authors David Tormey and Steve Huntley say. In Australia the installation of a range hood is common with both gas and electric cook tops.

"The type of appliance (natural gas or electric) used to cook food indoors is not a significant determinant of residential indoor air quality. While CO and NOx emissions and post-combustion formation of NO2 are unique to gas ranges due to the combustion of natural gas, their concentrations in residential indoor air do not pose a health risk."

The often-cited Gruenwald study, which incorrectly suggests 13% of childhood asthma cases can be linked to indoor use of gas stoves, has been thoroughly debunked with the data revealing there is not a statistically significant relationship between NO<sub>2</sub> (which comes from combustion of natural gas) and asthma.

“Therefore, Gruenwald et al.’s data indicate that any effects may be due to the foods being cooked (or other confounding factors) rather than the fuel used – there is no other distinguishing factor of gas cooking appliances, as opposed to electric cooking appliances, for which an association with childhood asthma has been suggested,” Mr Tormey and Mr Huntley say.

The report also reveals the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC) found that for a cohort of 512,707 primary and secondary school children from 47 countries there was “no evidence of an association between the use of gas as a cooking fuel and either asthma symptoms or asthma diagnosis.”

ISAAC is the largest collaborative worldwide epidemiologic project ever undertaken focused on the possible association between gas stove use and asthma.

“As this shows, there is a mismatch between the actual underlying data, flawed study results and media reports, and public policy,” Mr Tormey and Mr Huntley say.

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