

I wish to submit this Address to the Committee.

While this may not fit all the criteria for forced Adoption it is imperative that causes to motives currently by medical staff be also addressed as I also was in a position of loss into a forced double abortion. The Department Staff and Religious abuses around the period of care I was to traumatised at the time to take or to know much about my situation as I was in shock . To add to the private hell by miss management of abused persons calibrating any support and medically today, any so called psychological and psychiatric needs I found throughout.

In more recent years this has culminated in further abuse in areas. Misdiagnosis and over medicating as further physical advices are adding to physical health and distresses to add to a lifetime of grief experiences.

Thank you to who gave me insight to understand why I never cried for the child I couldn't keep all those years ago. She gave me the answers that saved both of us from a whole lot of more suffering.

#### WHERE'S THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT

Charge Sheet for Criminal Activity actively carried out by Department

Failure to comply with Parliamentary ACTS of Care and Protection ACTS set down as Laws for the protection of a child in care and protection of a child in its care and under its protection ACT of Laws.

Failure to educate a child in its care and protection

Failing to protect a child from and Being an active party to Child abduction and cover up and entrapment and betrayal.

Multiple Criminal Abuses of a child while being held under in its care and protection ACT

Complicit in Multiple Police Harassment with Threats of incarceration to inmate status and neglected child syndrome

Religious extortion and harassment to abuse a child in its care and protection

Complicit in Police and Department multiple harassment to create a case of neglect for court proceedings over a period of several years

Complicit in the Abduction of a child by third and fourth party

Complicit in Illegally making a child a state ward for purposes of Sexual Abuse

Illegally making a child a state ward without permission and wishes of the parent and then not protecting the child held under that care and protection ACT

Criminal neglect and Illegal abduction of a child to illegally placement and abandonment and acceptance of a child to an Orphanage without consent of the parent

Detaining a child in care and protection as an inmate and as a status of inmate and leaving the child open to many criminal abuses because of being held under the child care and protection ACT

Leaving and forcing a child to live in moral danger while under the care and protection ACT for years in discriminating and abusive circumstances.

Failure to prevent a child from being in moral danger while being held under care and protection ACT

Multiple and Illegally abusing a child in its care and protection for;

5 years. -1965 to 1970

18 months. --1970 to 1970

1 ½ years 1961-1962

13 years. State ward-----1965 to 1974

Illegal and multiple abuses of a child in care

Illegal multiple sexual abuses over 2000-3000 more separate abuses.

Illegal and multiple Fostering of a child in its care and protection and without permit from the authority for the child while under its care and protection and supervision

Illegally multiple fostering of a child without parental permission and notification

Multiple aggravated assaults with intent to do harm while in care and protection

Illegally change of age and name and to keep accurate records of offences committed by other parties

Falsifying legal records and changing records of a child in their care and protection

Falsifying records to cover up assaults while in care and protection

Failing to provide suitable nutritional health and emotional and spiritual needs and well being to support growth and nutritional needs and choices while being held under the care and protection ACT

Failing to provide a child in its care and protection and being held under the ACT a safe and healthy environment to express needs and abuses and when they did occur and further protect them from continued re abuse

Failure to provide a child in its care and protection from abuse in education and to a suitable level for work or career choices and life skills

Failure to provide a child in its care, duty of care for medical attention for a variety of health conditions 1961 to 1974

Failure to protect a child from Multiple forms of torturing of a child in its care and protection 1961 to 1974

Stealing clothing from a child while in care and protection

Not providing a child in care with clothes and shoes

Failure to the provide a child parental bonding and relationships with siblings and significant family members

Failure in duty of care to provide a safe environment from sexual assaults and then further after many sexual assaults and multiple acts of abuse.

Failure of and withholding basic human rights while in care and protection

Failure to allow friendships at all and actively preventing friendships while in care and protection.

Failure to provide an environment for friendships and positive community relationships

Failure to provide an environment of and for safety in communication and community welfare

Failure to provide an environment for trust

Failure to provide life skills to seek help when needed and confidence to do so without fear of retribution and further trauma.

Illegally holding a child in detention

Threatening a child with further detainment and imprisonment

Failure of entitlement of human needs

Failure of Request for address of Public Trustee inheritance

Failure to advise on Legal Work Insurance Policy on death of Fiancé

Failure to advise on living away from home allowance to help to secure a child in care and protection from Vagrancy charges

Failure to supply a child in care and protection their needs for cleanliness and personal hygiene

Multiple Harassments to exert control of a child in care and protection

Failure to protect a child in care and protection from Cult activities with intent to manipulations for the express purpose of mind control manipulations and acceptance of blame for abuses including sexual assaults and abuses, baptisms and applying and using peer group pressure to control for behaviour modification to carry out cult activities 1961 to 1974

Abandonment of a young person while in its care and protection, homeless and jobless while suffering a mental and emotional break and causing further trauma after severe and multiple trauma.

Failure to secure medical and emotional/mental advice and counselling and treatment for traumas suffered at the hands of care and protection.

Illegally Stealing and interfering with personal mail which is an offence under the ACT.

Multiple Deformations of character of self and family.

Multiple and criminal Accusations of a defamatory nature of a child while in care and protection

Illegally and permanently giving a child a disability with Multiple and Complex traumatic stress and physical disability and leaving without support for decent life expectations or support for welfare and living standards.

Allowing circumstances to provide grounds for suicide while in care and protection

Allowing a child in its care and protection the means to provide a suitable environment of their unborn child and future children without threats of stealing their child

Failure to give entitlement for Suitable role model behaviour for well balanced childcare.

Protection of a child from religious and cult manipulations for baptism of self and for offspring as an adult and confidence to defer and refuse, decline manipulations for baptism.

Double abortion while in shock and grief as a young person cause them to be homeless and forced by manner of 'care' to take double abortion fear for safety for both Mother and child. And the follow on abuses by medical staff in hospital which are still carried out to this day. See below.

While awaiting intro to latest surgery to while away the time some patients friendly chattered and bantered to the patient next to them....

Nurses came and went speaking to patients as per prep requirement needs.

At one point a nurse overheard my comments to a patient that I still smoked. After I hearing that some patients perhaps healthier life though being hereditary to that family. As it was in mine including stress but not as abused as the years of experiences while in care of which I did not disclose at the time in any way form.

Though I rejoined in humour ... see all this healthy lifestyle must be a sad position for an outcome such as this one you have experienced and to come to people as I had heard such things many times over from others personal accounts as my work has taken me through and over and in to many areas of health including nursing.

However I was stunned and shocked when nurse rejoined in to that private conversation with contempt in her attitude it seemed to me 'you still smoke with this outcome' (no doubt some reading of file had taken place perhaps. Of the past mind some years ago during an extremely distressful period of years. Including realization of my childhood abuses, Forde Inquiry, Senate Inquiry, further Senate outcome Inquiry, Redress and both before and further on from this period 2007.

As for the present, I was jovial to other patients to help ease both my own distress and theirs I hoped. As we waited I looked compassionately at each person and hoped each well and would have their best outcome.

I was horrified however and insulted at the accusatory demeaning tone to the clear and obvious insinuatingly and negative unasked and unsought, atrocious attitude for counselling with furthermore dismissive, dis/empowering undermining attitude and excuse for this counselling I experienced from some kind of person not experienced so far for my life experiences at this time and day. The unasked for Self Opinionated counselling considering she knew not one thing of and nor for the reasons nor the amount of reduction work I in fact had accomplished over time.

I was proud of my accomplishments but she further downgraded attitude to my private and personal accomplishments attained, further again not stopping just to denigrate the first time. She managed to alleviate my small well earned confidence and faith I had in my own Education in both Allopathic and Complimentary and Medical Training Attainments as a well publicized 'Apology to Forgotten

Australian'. These supportive avenues are also proving to be extremely supportive in healthcare needs the world over..

And this to alleviate distress and anxiety to this patient.

I went in as per number allocation, only to find no pain relief at all took place at all as no calming nor local anaesthetic took affect at all during the entire procedure.

So this procedure went ahead without support nor pain relief for the entire time only their amusements by staff was sick to say the least..

Further while still suffering the after affects of that, I was refused urination needs repeatedly even after requesting toileting and in the end a catheter as I could not pass urine and as laying down as is not normal for a patient who suffers bladder control issues.

I suffered enough pain and as in a UTI both pain, strain and muscle pressures from the entire procedure as I yelled, screaming loudly and wept throughout the entire procedure process is in a normally tender area for most. I have not had this particular suffering of no pain relief of procedure. I had some additional distress as the ligament area is painful as well for some well over 30 to many more years and more years of both mostly untreated and personally treated including other health needs unmet by 'care'. This is in addition also due to inappropriate birth practises by public hospitals. Though now we are all paying patients better supports must be taken into account by staff, clearly not the case at all. This I believe is inappropriate and barbaric medical care I was experiencing.

I simply repeated aforementioned requested toileting over and over well over begging for urination needs to be met.. All the while from the op trauma, distress being totally ignored all together and nurse appeared to not bother to achieve this but for a offer of a pan some time later though I stated clearly sufficient for other patients over a most serious period of time no doubt distressing other patients. Further the staff deaf to my constant pleas, did hear my begging pleas it seems... eventually, but to late for the trauma and distress went to get a commode which did not appear for some extraordinary period of time though in additional agonising pain of this UTI like condition likely brought on by so-called op trauma pain and pressures, the attitudes of staff etc which had brought on pain and bleeding on other occasions a few weeks before from straining both to hold on and also re possible irritation and infection concerns.. Likely due to catheter use more likely as it does set up irritation for me though a better option particularly in prevention of urination needs unmet. I also felt traumatised as peeing in the bed (abuses as a child in care for doing so while under extreme traumatisation) for both myself and staff considering the abuses suffered in PTSD suffers uncalled for abuse now repeatedly so.

This some 3 weeks earlier, I might add I was extremely appreciative and .....wished to add both my and our, my husband's appreciation for the wonderful and supportive and caring staff I encountered

while in CCU. The statement stated to me by Doctor seen at the time was 'we will keep you sedated so you do not have a repeat of the last time you were here' (and now this?)

So what was this present experience, I wondered?

(Unfortunately this has not carried forward in this latest experience on Friday). I was alleviated of as much distress and discomfort well before the sheath was taken out and during that entire procedure. Though I did encounter one staff nurse who informed me stating 'I was abusing her'...on my last night then ...when giving reason to additional distress/s.. I stated to her 'I am a Forgotten Australian', 'abused by Church and Government Institutional Care' I re encountered a night of trauma from this abusive statement on that occasion. Though I was to be released the next morning so decided to leave that go through to the keeper/s.

Needless to say on Friday I released myself as soon as...

I was and felt so dehumanized and incensed with horror at this deliberate denigrating demeaning and obviously deliberately painful experiences forced upon me by staff.

I went to the wait area where I sucked up as many and over 6 more likely up to 10 or more idling car fumes for well over their allocated time period for wait time for pick up allocations .. I was there waiting for close to an hour..After the days exhaustion and untenable abuses. I hardly think the then reduced few cigarettes I was still smoking to cope with this addiction learned while in 'CARE' I add would hold up anywhere close to the car fumes as I suffocated while I waited my few second, brief pickup time.

This and other addiction, places and is for many Forgotten Australians a learned and indeed manipulations used to encourage, encouraged usually forced upon individuals this addiction while not receiving any form of actual care, support nor confidence building or empowerment while suffering untold years of multiple assaults, deaths of children and many other horrors most would not experience in their worst dreams, or horror movies nor in many lifetimes over. Left homeless and extremely abused still extremely pathetic counselling services and further by medical staff who do not know the first thing about our horrors and needs. Nor are services available at all for Forgotten Australians. There are over 500,000 persons and their families experienced these and many untold atrocities experienced, often still experienced daily for many and over many if not all the years of their life.

Many suffer days and weeks of foetal pain horrors reliving their traumas for days and weeks. Some paint their horrors, some write poetry to help others to understand better their pain and to educate better off, so called educated people to understand why some cannot even live in normal society cause they never had this nor a family to support and love and care for them. So many support others, while we wait our release from our burdens. We love and appreciate our families who support our work to let others know there is 'some help' for them in the way of services both health and housing. Some pick up lost souls in the streets feed and help them in their misery and addictions to many forms of harm and help them as best we can. Yet I experienced this I cannot believe this is

modern of today's or then this latest in CARE management and arrangements for patients to experience.

In Reference to other days of receipted information given to this patient. Clearly this is the cover noted after phone complaint made to

In Reference to letter received presently dated 31<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011.

I would like to know where this miss information above being Schizophrenia/ PTSD

Bp also pain adds to heighten or up BP read so why was bp normal, one has to ask do you consider at all?

As stated in the past physical fall, car accidents legs, hips injury, spinal injuries, scoliosis, neck and shoulder injury. How does this constitute some mental disorder?

Wonder how the Japanese are doing re the Radio active problem?

I demand an explanation as to the when, where and how I have been branded a Schizophrenia/PTSD. The truth of the matter is yes I suffer PTSD but has anything to do with Schizophrenia.

The PTSD I experience was a direct cause of multiple abuses sustained from the age of 4 to approx 15 years of age and further to 18/19 'lorded over' me in institutional 'care', controlled and dished out at the hands of Government and Religious Authorities.

For your information enclosed. I do not suffer hypothyroid as this was induced as a result of hyperthyroid/Graves disease diagnosed by a Doctor . One day highly stressed I began hyperventilating while in travel. I sought a doctor who has since abused our trust many times including misdiagnosing my sons' severe case of Perthes epiphacial displacia , in process due to taking of lessons in Tai Quon Doa while the PCYC did not take any responsibility for this abuse. The Schools State Education and many Teachers and Staff after op also added to abuses as did the Soccer Club and Minister abused him further after op.)

- **I felt so distressed including no information nor advices as to the outcome of for the poisoning by 245t etc, Graves disease and further PTSD multiple child abuses such as experienced brought to Micah Projects by FICH told in the Inquiries for years over now by the Forde Inquiry, "Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee Inquiry and further Committee Inquiries' into Forgotten Australians' and the outcome which is pitiful to say the very least. CLAN 'Alliance for Forgotten Australians' and numerous Inquiries. Including currant**
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- [http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac\\_ctte/comm\\_contrib\\_former\\_forced\\_adoption/submissions.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/comm_contrib_former_forced_adoption/submissions.htm)

[Parliament of Australia: Senate: Committees: Community Affairs Committee: Commonwealth contribution.](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/comm_contrib_former_forced_adoption/submissions.htm)

[www.aph.gov.au](http://www.aph.gov.au)

Any hypertension I suffer is directly caused by pain and stress both present and past I suffer due to physical abuses and PTSD and by the system of abuses when I do seek medical help from hospital staff and doctors who are more suited to phone calls and taking conversation while taking money from Government and making my consultation time for their private conversations and (playing other mindless conversations to the other doctor or whoever is on phone to the patient) These rude interruptions Government is paying for as well as each patient.

One took money for years on end though no less suffering was ever found for this patient. Medications do not even come close but add suffering including current. Drug pushing business by doctors is rampant and worse than the street pushers that I know nothing about for my part... The solutions by doctors and drug companies mostly are very over rated. So are a legalized form of fraud.

I suffered many years as an adult of additional poisoning due to 245T, Agent green red blue etc, 1080 and over a period of approximately 8 years and other chemicals daily used.

In the process to educate myself on the terrible outcome for Perthes suffering I sought support from another doctor who was apparently supportive for a period only. I had no other doctor to seek this and other further this advice. Though the library at the RBH was pathetic and old information only of the 60's maybe older.

The seeking of the Genetic Group was appalling lacking any information at all.

I began to suffer further the additional poisoning in addition to and of the RAI 131 treatment for goitre and now Graves disease caused within the early living period in this 245T environment. In addition to the abuses suffered at the hands of Government and Religious abusers.

So it is now an entitlement of Government staff to abuse further by branding abuse sufferers, victims and survivors as you have done over whatever period you see fit by abusing the victim of such abuses named though there are addition to these. Including uses of medications that clearly cause many severe forms of diseases to fit your diagnosis.

Clearly Government Redress was to seek out to do this to any that thought there was TRUTH in the outpouring of 'Forgotten Australians' trying to get through their life as best they could live it often with as little as they could expect from over paid services that do well not much of anything at all apart from take money to pay staff of both Government and Religious Organisations/Corporations.

Give em a bit. Play with them awhile by counselling them, then get rid of them and refuse any real help as soon as can. Some see this straight off while others wonder what the.. is going on here and take a wait and see attitude maybe I am wrong but still looks like BS and Fraud to me by Government and Religious Corporations .

Strange as I prefer not to use any medications, yet it is clear to any fool that such medicating will induce and add to a disease in addition to any single diagnosis and often enough misdiagnosis by person or persons who know very little about much of a thing at all regarding this whole person life and experiences. Then give misleading noted advice and call these well, 'funded services' to the Public Purse by Government.

Clearly you still have only half the idea as to any form of address to redress abuses directly administered and caused and are now suffering upon and abusing of to this patient.

Educated persons best get educated on reality that are best left to understand realization they are part of this current abuse of multiple abuses victims.



Shredagate and many past inquiries over years.

Harper Report ?/Armstrong Report

# **Agent Orange**

**by Gary**

## **AGENT ORANGE**

**An open letter to the Government of Australia**

**The ongoing concerns of Vietnam Veterans and their families.**

**By Gary McMahon**

**Make no mistake. Our families and we Vietnam veterans have been poisoned by one of, if not the most deadly chemical known to man. The human cost of this poisoning has yet to be totaled. The two most important features of this killer are the slow effect rate and the diverse symptomology. That is, its effects are delayed. After being ingested by the body, it is stored in the fat tissue only to be released at a later time.**

**The range of symptoms that this killer throws out are obscene:**

**Dermatological, neurological, gastrointestinal, and psychological disorders.**

**Chloracne, an incurable rash on the face, neck, back, arms and legs, boils, blisters, skin irritation and sensitivity to sunlight.**

**Loss of sensation and tingling in the fingers and toes, intolerance to cold, damage to the peripheral nervous system. Constant fatigue. Depression, inability to concentrate, nervousness and irritability, insomnia, vertigo, loss of sex drive, recurring headaches, nausea and sudden unexplained weight loss. Red blood rectal bleeding has also been reported.**

**Respiratory distress, shortness of breath, allergies, tender liver, recurring digestive upset and slowed digestion, vascular lesions, stomach, intestinal kidney and liver pain, and stiffness. Swelling and pain in the joints of the arms and legs.**

**Finally and probably worst of all, numerous and varied birth defects in the children of Vietnam veterans. All documented in our governments last mortality study into the health of Vietnam veterans and their families.**

**New evidence supports the association between chemicals used in herbicides in the Vietnam War and cancers and other assorted health problems. It has been confirmed that there is a link to Soft Tissue Sarcoma, Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, and Chloracne.**

**There is also evidence to show an association with the congenital birth defect Spina Bifida in veteran's children, and with a neurological disorder in veterans.**

**The latest Mortality Study into the health of Vietnam veterans and their families shows a horrifying number of abnormalities and serious health problems suffered by the families of Vietnam veterans. While we may be prepared to wait for the wheels of government to turn as pathetically slow as they do concerning our own health problems, we are not prepared to give an inch or to listen to any bullshit when it comes to the health of our children. This needs to be looked at and fixed...NOW.**

**Although we refer to the chemicals as Agent Orange there were in fact fifteen chemicals used extensively in Vietnam during the war. They are:**

**PURPLE.....A formulation of 2,4,-D and 2,4,5,-T used in 1962 to 1964.**

**GREEN.....Contained 2,4,5,-T and was used 1962-1964.**

**PINK.....Contained 2,4,5,-T and was used 1962-1964.**

**ORANGE.....A formulation of 2,4,D and 2,4,5,-T used in 1965 to 1970.**

**WHITE.....A formulation of Picloram and 2,4,-D.**

**BLUE.....Contained cacodylic acid.**

**ORANGE 11.....A formulation of 2,4,-D and 2,4,5,-T used in 1968 and 1969.**

**DINOXOL.....A formulation of 2,4,-D and 2,4,5,-T.**

**Tested in Vietnam between 1962 and 1964.**

**TRINOXOL: ...Contained 2,4,5,-T. Tested in Vietnam 1962 to 1964.**

**BROMACIL....DIQUAT....TANDEX....MONURON....DIURON....DALAPON**

**Quantities of all of the above were tested in Vietnam, 1962 - 1964.**

**Agent Orange is the best known of the chemical killers as it was used as part of the massive defoliation program to destroy jungle cover, crops and other vegetation during the Vietnam War.**

**Prior to using Agent Orange the military experimented with Agent Green, Agent Pink, and Agent Purple.**

**In 1965 Agent Orange and Agent White replaced the previous agents and began to be used in even larger amounts as the war escalated.**

**Agent Blue, the only agent not derived from phenoxyacetic acid, was used through all phases of the war. All of these herbicides were named after the colourcoded bands around the 55-gallon drums they were stored in.**

**The volume of undiluted herbicide sprayed is testimony to the wide degree of exposure among the military in all areas of Vietnam. All military personnel were exposed, though some were exposed more directly with greater amounts of herbicide than others.**

**Exposure came through contaminated food and water; through direct contact to the skin and from breathing the fumes and many other ways.**

**Also, the cocktail effect, the multiple exposure to toxic agents like, 24D, 245T, Cacodylic Acid, and Picloram were accompanied by stress, fatigue, high humidity and temperatures and the use of other drugs.**

**The chemical killer that is the biggest worry to veterans is TCDD (2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzodioxin), better known simply as dioxin. There are 75 different dioxins, but scientists recognize the dioxin found in 245T as the most toxic synthetic chemical in existence. Out of 44 million lbs. Of 245T sprayed, some 368 lbs. Of TCDD were deposited in Vietnam.**

**When we look at the degree of toxicity of dioxin it amazes me that anyone would bother to do surveys and health studies trying to prove or disprove a link. This stuff is unbelievably deadly.**

**Think of Dioxin this way; it is measured in parts per trillion. This can be roughly compared to a teaspoon of salt mixed evenly through a dump truck full of sand. The extreme toxicity of Dioxin makes even this amount a potentially lethal dose. It is the most potent cancer-causing agent known to man. The tiniest amount causes malignant tumors in animals. It is also a powerful teratogen, causing birth defects and reproductive toxicity such as stillbirths and miscarriages.**

**The sick part is, TCDD does NOT kill plants. It could have been removed from 245T without affecting its purpose. The manufacturers knew its extreme toxicity and the danger of using it, but TCDD was not removed from 245T because that would have increased production costs.**

**There needs to be action taken NOW.**

**Who the hell do the leaders of this country think they are? Do they honestly think they can get away with allowing the nations Armed Forces to be poisoned and then do nothing about it.**

**So far the diversity of these symptoms and the slow effect rate have encouraged government agencies to downplay the problem. Goodness knows how many veterans have died or suffered because of their inaction.**

**Remember that scientists knew the Agent Orange problems as early as 1972. The National Academy of Sciences in the US, in 1974, released their report, "The Effects of Herbicides in South Vietnam." They called for a variety of studies to begin immediately yet neither our federal government, nor the US federal government, or the scientists did anything. They still do nothing?**

**The Australian governments' latest study into The Mortality of Vietnam Veterans and their Families shocked even us Vietnam veterans.**

**The report shows that veterans, their spouse and their children suffer from a range of illnesses much, much higher than the rest of the population.**

**We all know about the greatly elevated rates of Spina Bifida and Cancer, and other normally rare diseases but I was shocked to the core when I read that the number of deaths of Vietnam veterans children from accident and suicide is 250% higher than for other Australians.**

**Other examples are:**

**Male breast cancer.....2,500% higher**

**Ischaemic heart disease.....200%**

**Leukemia.....300%**

**Prostate cancer.....300%**

**Cancer of colon.....350%**

**Motor neuron disease.....6000%**

**Cleft lip or palate.....400%**

**Absent body parts.....1000%**

**Spina Bifida.....1000%**

**I won't go on. I don't think I need to. This needs to be dealt with now.**

**We can no longer tolerate the inaction of our so-called leaders.**

**While we veterans now continue the task of fighting the government for treatment and disability payments, we need to remember who we are up against and the things they will do to deny responsibility.**

**The following is a reminder of the level they will stoop to. It is taken from The Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia's answer to The Report of the Royal Commission into the use and effects of Chemical Agents on Australian Personnel in Vietnam. I QUOTE:**

#### **THE TREATMENT OF EVIDENCE**

**The Commission's judgement on the question of exposure can only be understood when seen in context of the overall treatment of evidence. Evidence supporting the veterans' claims was without exception rejected. Evidence suggesting that exposure was slight or that the chemicals involved were less than toxic was accepted without question or hesitation. In order to follow this approach it was necessary, at times, for the Commission to go to extraordinary lengths.**

**One of the key witnesses called on behalf of the Chemical companies was Mr. John Bamford. The Victorian Lands Department had employed Mr. Bamford as a member of a spraying team. He used 245T AND 24D, the active ingredients of Agent Orange. In cross-examination Mr. Bamford described the casual way in which he and his work mates had treated the chemicals, often spraying each other as if the material were water. On one particular hot day Mr. Bamford had climbed into the herbicide tank in order to cool off.**

**Justice Evatt was impressed by Mr. Bamford's evidence and he notes that at the time of his appearance before the commission Mr. Bamford was in good health as were his children. In his final report Justice Evatt concluded that Bamford's case added weight against any suggestion that 245T and 24D may cause short or long-term illness.**

**But this is not the conclusion that an objective assessment of Bamford's testimony demands. In citing the Bamford case as evidence against the veterans' claims it was necessary for the**

**Commission to omit all reference to the testimony given by Bamford during cross-examination by the QC assisting the VVAA.**

**Under questioning Mr. Bamford was asked about the fate of his workmates who had also been exposed to high concentrations of 245T and 24D.**

**He revealed that his workmates were now all dead. (Transcript p.1035) Justice Evatt did not think this information compromised the Commission's verdict. In other words Bamford was well: this proved the chemicals were harmless. The fact that others were dead was not even worth a mention.**

**Tragically it is now known that since giving evidence, Mr. Bamford has experienced severe ill health. He has subsequently been diagnosed as suffering from health effects that the VVAA claimed are caused by exposure to 245T. Nothing was said to suggest Mr. Bamford suffered PTSD.**

**You can see from this sort of thing what a load of garbage we have had thrown at us over the years by the arrogant people we have had to deal with in our quest for fair and just treatment.**

**The Department of Veterans Affairs stooped to about gutter level during the Royal Commission too. Again I quote from the VVAA's answer to the report from the Royal Commissioner.**

**"When one looks at the complaints concerning the Department of Veterans Affairs and the files of people like "veteran 12" (in the report) where the departments conduct was life threatening and where documents were altered to cover the conduct. Or "veteran 11" (in the report) whose life might have been saved if the medical officers of the department were more active, it is difficult to see how Justice Evatt cannot be concerned about such conduct. Where the department was caught out the Commission says (Vol.7,p.xiv-227)**

**The Commission notes that DVA frankly disclosed the falsification of the records. This is typical of the open way which DVA has accepted the investigations by this Commission."**

**"What is not said is that the veteran took copies of the file before the falsification took place - the DVA was caught out by documents showing the falsification. Nevertheless Justice Evatt seemed to believe admission of guilt excuses the conduct."**

**All that Vietnam veterans seek from the government and the Department of Veterans Affairs is a "fair go". It is obvious from the lousy treatment in the past and the huge range of health problems faced by veterans and their families that we have not had that so far.**

**It is time for action to be taken NOW.**

**Gary McMahon**

**Vietnam Veteran.**

**GOVERNMENT ACKNOWLEDGES APB  
WORKERS EXPOSURE TO 245T IS  
LINKED TO CANCER**

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News

Mr Chapple, who has asked in excess of 20 questions in the House relating to the plight of APB Workers, and initiated the Inquiry into the sourcing of chemicals, today commended the Government for having gone some way to acknowledging the plight of the former workers and their families who have suffered from 245T exposure.

'For that, the Government must be congratulated' said Mr Chapple.

'At least some of those workers, those with cancer, and in the case of those workers who have died of cancer; their dependants, will now have access to lodge a claim for compensation. It is a start,' stated Mr Chapple.

'The Minister believes this matter has been investigated fully, and he is now satisfied that the Government has done that. ' I am not', said Mr Chapple. 'My initial response would be that not all information available has been considered.'

The Government chose to ignore a recommendation by the Expert Panel that a formal survey of serum TCDD levels be conducted in APB workers and a comparison population in the Kimberley. 'The Government's rationale is not based on all the evidence,' said Mr Chapple. 'How is that investigating the matter fully?'

This further report, known as the Armstrong Report, was commissioned by the Government, after failing to accept many of the findings of the Harper Report. The Government states that the Armstrong Report was an Expert Panel.

Is the Government saying it knows better?

Whilst this report acknowledges that the APB workers may suffer or have suffered an increased risk of cancer, it does not acknowledge that any other symptoms of ill health can be attributed to their exposure to herbicides. How does this help their claims for workers compensation?

'People deserve to know what happened. The workers and their families deserve to know what happened. The families of those people who paid the ultimate price for their employment, and died of cancer can at least have some closure. As to the rest of the people – I am not convinced that the Government has done all it can to assist them', stated Mr Chapple.

I Wish to thank you in advance for your exceptance for this submission to this Inquiry.

I remain

Mrs. Rosemary Bateman Nee Maurer