

**Submission for the
Parliamentary Inquiry into
Biotoxin-related Illnesses in Australia**

Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport
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Dear committee,

Your inquiry is of significant important to many of my client and person that are suffering from a Water Damage Building(WDB) due to many problem from condensation to badly built building construction.

My submission is brief with cases that I was involved with which has led to deterioration of my clients health, tremendous cost associated with rectification works and anguish.

I come from the field of water damage restoration "Restoration Industry" and indoor air quality. I help to restore home that have been affected by WDB. I feel I should add some information that maybe relevant to your inquiry.

In the last 19 years I been working in the indoor air quality space. What does this mean? Indoor Air Quality as define by Wikipedia "Indoor air quality is a term which refers to the air quality within and around buildings and structures, especially as it relates to the health and comfort of building occupants"

In 2016 I founded the "Australian Chapter" of the international organisation "Indoor Air Quality Association". This bring together the professional that works in the space of WDB and it health effect. The chapter President DR. Claire Bird runs the chapter with member such as Brad Prezant who written "Recognition, Evaluation, and Control of Indoor Mold" by AIHA.

So as a water damage restorer that deal with mould effects building what are the qualifications. The Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC) produced the ANSI/IICRC S500 Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Water Damage Restoration (2015) or the ANSI/IICRC S520 Standard and IICRC R520 Reference Guide for Professional Mold Remediation.

Many may say there is no standard for restoration of a WDB; which is not true as many may wish to works around the standard(IICRC or EPA) that has been developed for more that 10 years. In the USA ,many state have mould license for the restoration works as we do for back home here for asbestos. We need to consider and/or adopt our existing asbestos type format for our resonation work in a WDB.

**note the difference a remdation of a WDB is the variable of the such as

- a) Building envelope
- b) Occupants and maintance habits
- c) Ventilation issue
- d) Exisitng water damage

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e) Building issue

This is another reason for this submission.

In 2017 I submitted my thesis for my Water Lost Specialist (RIA). This thesis was based on a WDB that was direct result of cladding material fault this was a costly \$450,000 of building damages which lead to mould and health issue to the young family.

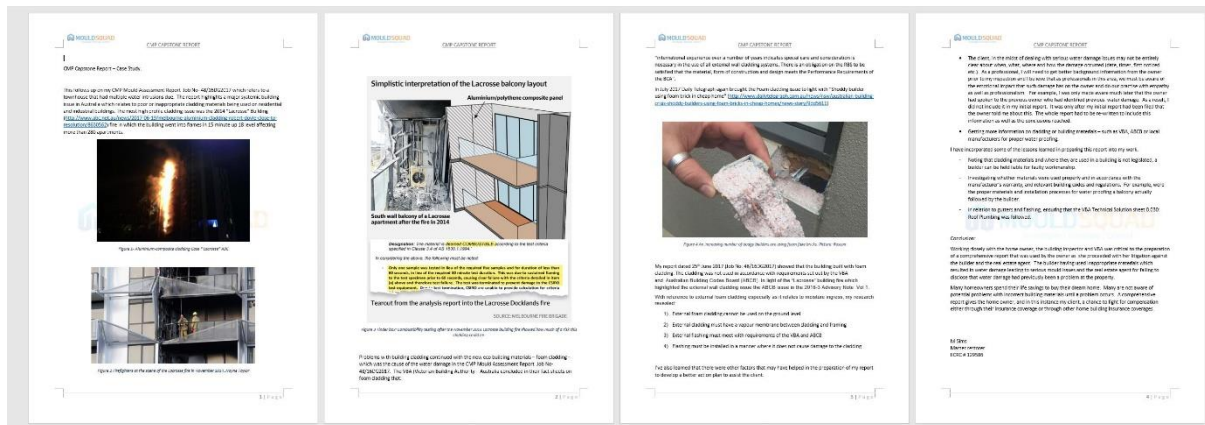


Figure 1 Cladding thesis on a WDB envelope

Another case where a client is suffer from a WDB due to badly built new home causing mould. The client has been suffering form more then 5 years and now is diagnosis with Chronic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (CIRS) s “An acute and chronic, systemic inflammatory response syndrome acquired following exposure to the interior environment of a water-damaged building (WDB) with resident toxigenic organisms, including, but not limited to fungi, bacteria, actinomycetes and mycobacteria as well as inflammagens such as endotoxins, beta glucans, hemolysins, proteinases, mannans and possibly spirocyclic diamanes; as well as volatile organic compounds (VOCs).”

As she is above the age of 60 fighting this diagnosis is not easy and is going to have to live with for the rest of her life. I have been helping her and checking in with her progress for the last 4 years.

Lack of subfloor ventilation and high humidity raising to the indoor environment and roofing cavity which means the whole house had to be mitigated this was a huge cost which cost them more the \$75,000.00 in mitigation fee and relocation fee.

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In my conclusion thoughts , is how we can to bring together the discipline that are already involved in the indoor air quality space to educated the public the health effect of poor ventilation and building maintenance.

The building industry must consider the building practise where inadequate water mitigation is a problem or framing that is not secure during building causing water ingress and subsequently mould. I come across many building that is affect by mould and not mitigated but covered up.

In New Zealand due to the high clandestine drug lab (methamphetamine lab)that taken the residential rental market to conduct their cooking caused detrimental health problem. This is such a problem that the government made sure that ever rental or selling property conducted a methamphetamine report. I sincerely believe we need a water damage and mould certificate in Australia. This is third parties impartial.

I thank the parliament in looking at this important matter which is causing such a havoc and confusion.

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