

Senate Committee,
Parliament House.

28TH February 2020

PERSONAL SUBMISSION TO " THE INVESTIGATIONS INTO A
POSSIBLE CANCER CLUSTER ON THE BELLARINE PENINSULA "

Dear Committee Members,

I live with my husband and son on the beautiful Bellarine Peninsula. We used to live in [REDACTED] on a beachfront property on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for about nine years. We purchased the property in 2001 and sold it in 2010. There were wet marshy areas between us and the foreshore which was alive with flora and fauna and which was also a great breeding ground for mosquitos. I was home a lot and noticed on many occasions every season, some people from the council would turn up and scatter pellets and spray over the marshlands.

This concerned me as my son played in the area. It was basically our backyard. On one occasion, I approached them and voiced my concern. They assured me that the product they were using was a natural deterrent. I couldn't work out why they were wearing protective clothing after they told me they were using a natural product.

In May 2008, my son who was attending Bellarine Secondary College started to get ill. He was 12 years old. After many tests and hospitalisations we were told he had an anti-immune condition. His bowels were ulcerated to the extent that they were bleeding so much, he had to have a blood transfusion. We have almost lost him a couple of times. We were spending a lot of time travelling to the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne for chemical infusions. The head of the Gastrointestinal Department had exhausted all known trial medications and informed us that his only option was to remove a portion of his bowel and have him survive carrying a bag. Thanks to a very kind Melbourne Professor, my son doesn't carry a bag but will spend the rest of his life taking Mercaptopurine and other drugs.

For many years I blamed myself for his condition. Recently, my son told me that he saw on Facebook that the media reported a cluster of cancer and autoimmune conditions had been discovered in children and adults living on the Bellarine Peninsula. It also emphasised that the local council had used toxic chemicals to eradicate mosquitos. My son also told me that he had seen the people doing the same thing around his school and the nearby schools. The media release said that the product used was a banned substance and it should not have been used.

There must be a lot of people on the Bellarine that this product could have affected. I now hope that this issue gets looked at very carefully and bring some justice to all concerned.

I am more than happy to confront the Committee to discuss this submission if asked.

Thank you