

To whom it may concern,

The PFAS contamination in Katherine NT has had a significant effect on my family and I. I have now moved from Katherine to get away from this contamination. I moved to the NT 14 years ago for a healthy lifestyle. As a paramedic I understand the social determinants of health and the effect the environment has on our wellbeing.

My wife and I had several miscarriages before resorting to IVF in Adelaide. I have genuine concerns for my health and that of my wife and now 2-year-old daughter. I keep my fingers crossed that my daughter's tiny little organs have not been exposed to PFAS. This is a fear that I live with every day. Her heart is barely the size of her fist and kidneys smaller than the palm of her hand. It wouldn't take much PFAS to damage her vital organs, although the information we are working with is limited, the balance of probability is that this has done some damage and may limit her quality of life.

When we moved from Katherine in April 2018 we had our house evaluated. We purchased in 2014 prior to the PFAS contamination knowledge. House prices were high and we spent \$60,000 renovating. We have invested considerably in our property in Katherine north and have been told recently that our house is valued at less than we purchased it for, merely \$330-345k. This has had a profound effect on our financial situation, especially living off one salary. We were hoping that our house would be valued at around \$425k, we have lost nearly 100k in the last 2 years.

We have received no support from local government and I feel like my family and I have been left out to dry. We have now found ourselves in a detrimental financial position which is being made worse by crashing property prices and declining rental income. We live day to day with concern for our health and that of our beautiful daughter. Had we have known about the presence of PFAS in Katherine we would not have exposed ourselves or our baby daughter to the environment to which it has contaminated. I would never consider living in an area contaminated by PFAS – it is a horrible, horrible chemical.

I genuinely hope that the commission finds in the public's favor and the government does absolutely everything in its power to support and compensate those who have been poisoned.