



**Submission No 47**

**Inquiry into RAAF F-111 Deseal/Reseal Workers and their Families**

**Name: Mr Laurence Carpenter**



FAX NUMBER: 02 6277 4435

COMPANY NAME: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES/PARLIAMENT HOUSE

ATTENTION: CLERK ASSISTANT (COMMITTEES)

FROM: MR LAURENCE CARPENTER

DATE: 25-JUN 08

NO. OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS PAGE): 8

MESSAGE:

SUBMISSION FOR "INQUIRY INTO RAAF F111 DESEAL/RESEAL WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES."

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
24 JUN 08

Clerk Assistant [Committees]  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**Submission for Inquiry into RAAF F-111  
Deseal / Reseal workers and their families.**

I am submitting my disappointment for the non payment of a lump sum by the F-111 Ex Gratia Scheme in .2006.[re attach letter.]

I was posted to RAAF Base Amberley from 1973 to 1980. I held the rank of Sergeant and Flight Sergeant during that period. As an Airframe Fitter, I was actively involved in the repair and the supervision of repair work of F-111 fuel tank leaks for that time.

As we [ground maintainance crew] were at the flying squadron, 482 sqn, I did not qualify for a lump sum Ex Gratia payment because we were not officially on the "F-111 Deseal / Reseal Programme.", even though we worked in the same F-111 fuel tanks and were exposed to the same chemicals and fumes as those accepted on the "F-111 Deseal /Reseal Programme."

Apart from many mechanical problems, the aircraft suffered from constant fuel leaks which involved many hours in the fuel tanks repairing the sealant. The sealant was reverting back to its liquid state causing the fuel leaks. During my seven years at 482 sqn, I estimated that my fuel tank occupancy was well in excess of the qualifying time period for the Ex Gratia time period.

The unservicable aircraft were repaired in the hangar when floor space was available. Otherwise the aircraft were repaired outside, including the flight line. Because of weather conditions and the urgency for servicable aircraft for the flying programme, the safety equipment on hand was not very effectual.

After working in fuel tanks, when I arrived home I had to leave my work clothes outside because of the bad chemical odours. Even after showering, my wife and children would complain of the odours on my body.

I have included extra information of my unsuccessful Ex Gratia lump sum payment.

I will not be available 24 Jul to 10 Aug 08 and 6Nov to 13 Dec 08.

Yours sincerely,  
  
L. Carpenter.

PO Box 21 Woden ACT 2606



Australian Government  
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Mr Laurence Carpenter  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Carpenter

I refer to your claim for payment under the F-111 Ex-gratia Lump Sum Payment Scheme. After carefully considering the information you provided and details of your service, I find that your duties do not satisfy the definition of a F-111 Deseal/Reseal participant as you did not participate in one of the four specified Deseal/Reseal Programs and did not undertake "pick and patch" activities while attached to a specific Deseal/Reseal section.

**Right of Appeal (Ex-Gratia Payment Only)**

Unlike determinations made under statutory compensation schemes, there is no formal mechanisms for internal review of decisions made to refuse recognition under Tier 1, 2 or 3 of the F-111 Ex-gratia Lump Sum Payment Scheme. This means that my decision is not reviewable by the Veterans' Review Board or the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

If you are dissatisfied with my decision and consider that you have either new or additional information you wish to have considered, you can approach the F111 Lump Sum Ex-gratia Payment team on 1800 555 323 and request that the matter be considered further.

However, if you consider that your claim has not been fully and fairly considered by the Department, or that my decision is not reasonable, you may request that the Commonwealth Ombudsman consider your case. Please be aware that the Ombudsman will only review the process undertaken and the information considered by the Department which resulted in my decision. The Ombudsman may be contacted, toll free, on 1300 362 072.

**Compensation Claims**

Whilst you were found ineligible for a one off ex-gratia lump sum payment, you may be entitled to, or already have lodged, a claim for benefits under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA)*, the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA)* or through the *Queensland Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003*. Eligibility for these benefits is independent of the F-111 Deseal/Reseal Lump Sum Payment.

These benefits are associated with your employment circumstances and require a separate compensation claim form to be completed. However, you should note that compensation claims will be determined using the usual provisions that apply to either peacetime service or your conditions of employment. The beneficial provisions available to those who can meet the definition of a Deseal/Reseal participant under section 7(2) of the SRCA will not apply to your claim.

For assistance in obtaining the correct claim form or the name of someone who can assist you regarding such a claim, please contact the most appropriate agency listed below. If you were:

- a member of the Australian Defence Force, you should call your DVA Deseal/Reseal Compensation Team on 1300 130 172; or
- an Australian Public Servant, you should call Comcare on 1300 366 979; or
- a Contractor of Hawker De Havilland or AWASCO who participated in any of the F-111 Deseal/Reseal programs, you should call Queensland WorkCover on 1300 362 128.

**Right of Appeal (VEA Compensation Claims Only)**

If your claim for compensation under the VEA is rejected, you can ask the Veterans' Review Board to review your case. Your application for review must be in writing, and must be lodged with the Department of Veterans' Affairs within 12 months of receiving that decision. However, to preserve your pension date of effect and gain the maximum benefit, you should lodge your application for review within three months.

Further information is available in the enclosed fact sheet.

**Right of Appeal (SRCA Compensation Claims Only)**

If your claim for compensation under the SRCA is rejected, you may have that decision reviewed by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT). However, you should be aware that if you do appeal to the AAT and the AAT's decision is not in your favour, you will be liable to pay your legal costs (if any). If your appeal is successful, costs (or part costs) may be paid for you. I have also enclosed information about the AAT for you to read.

*Saluting Their Service*

**Help Available (VEA or SRCA Compensation Claims/Appeals Only)**

Ex-service Organisations provide assistance with all matters concerning claims and appeals. Their addresses and telephone numbers are listed in the local telephone book for your area.

**Right of Appeal (Queensland Workcover Claims Only)**

If your claim for compensation under Queensland Workcover is rejected, please contact them on 1300 362 128 to determine your appeal rights under this State based legislation.

**Access to the SHOAMP Health Care Scheme**

Under this Scheme treatment continues to be provided until:

- liability for a condition is accepted; or
- all merit-based avenues of appeal have been exhausted.

This means that once the AAT has determined an appeal for either a VEA or a SRCA compensation claim, non-liability health treatment will cease.

If the appeal is unsuccessful, your health care needs will be transitioned back to programs that are available within the general community and funded through either Medicare or through your private health insurer. If your appeal is successful, then the usual legislative treatment provisions will apply. If liability for your condition is accepted under the VEA, you will be issued with either a Gold or a White Health Treatment Card. If liability for your condition is accepted under the SRCA or Queensland Workcover, you will be reimbursed for any medical expenses that are associated with that condition.

Yours sincerely

  
Barry Telford  
General Manager  
Policy & Development Division

12 September 2006

**Australian Government**  
**Department of Veterans Affairs**

# Claim for Lump Sum Payment by an F-111 Deseal/Reseal Participant

<b>Important information</b>	<p>The Government announced, on 20 December 2004, its response to the Study of Health Outcomes in Aircraft Maintenance Personnel. The Government has agreed to make a lump sum payment to those eligible participants who have been involved in the F-111 Deseal/Reseal Programs. Eligibility for a lump sum payment will not be restricted to the military and will include public servants and civilian contractors. In August 2005, the Government announced that a one-off payment of either \$40,000 or \$10,000 would be made to participants on the F-111 Deseal/Reseal programs in recognition of the special nature of the circumstances associated with Deseal/Reseal activities.</p>
<b>Who is eligible?</b>	<p>A person who was a participant in an F-111 Deseal/Reseal Program who was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a serving member or veteran who was an active participant in the F-111 Deseal/Reseal Program between 1 June 1976 and 28 January 2006; or</li> <li>• a public servant or civilian contractor who was an active participant in the F-111 Deseal/Reseal Program between 14 November 1991 and 27 August 1993.</li> </ul> <p>Only one lump sum payment may be made regardless of how many times a person may be eligible. For example, a member of the Armed Forces who participated in the F-111 Deseal/Reseal process who subsequently became an employee of Bowker De Havilland and who continued to participate in the F-111 Deseal/Reseal Programs, will only be eligible for one payment. If you receive more than one payment you will have to return the payments to which you are not entitled.</p>
<b>Where to lodge this claim</b>	<p>This claim must be lodged at the National Office of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Australia. Contact details can be found at the bottom of this page.</p>
<b>Other information</b>	<p>Please answer all relevant questions and include any other information that you think may help support this claim.</p>
<b>Privacy statement</b>	<p>The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs may obtain information to assess your eligibility for this payment. This could include accessing records from the Department of Defence.</p> <p>Information contained in this form and on any other additional forms may be provided to another Agency or body. These Agencies or bodies may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centrelink and the Australian Taxation Office for the purposes of data matching;</li> <li>• The Department of Health and Aged Care for income testing in relation to aged care services;</li> <li>• The various State or Local Government Authorities to verify your eligibility for rebates or concessions relating to rates, electricity, transport and/or vehicles and ambulances;</li> <li>• The Department of Defence for confirmation of service records;</li> <li>• Superannuation funds to establish income and assets;</li> <li>• Queensland WorkCover in the case of private contractors; and</li> <li>• Comcare in the case of Public Servants.</li> </ul> <p><b>Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.</b></p>
<b>How to contact DVA</b>	<p>For information, please call the National Office of the Department of Veterans Affairs (from anywhere in Australia) on: <b>1800 555 323</b></p> <p>Address for the return of claim forms: <b>F-111 Deseal/Reseal Lump Sum Payment PO Box 21 Woden ACT 2606</b></p>

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SECTION 1		Participant's Details	
1	Surname	CARPENTER	
2	Other names (in full)	LAURENCE STANLEY	
3	Date of birth	19/3/44	
4	Address where you live now	[REDACTED]	
		POSTCODE	[REDACTED]
5	Daytime phone number	[REDACTED]	
6	Have you lodged a claim for, or received, any other payment related to your participation in the F-111 Deseal/Reseal Program? <small>Example: Have you received a common law settlement from the Department of Defence?</small>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	How much was the payment? \$ [REDACTED] When was the payment made? [REDACTED] / [REDACTED] / [REDACTED] Who made the payment? [REDACTED]
7	Are you or were you: - A member of the Armed Forces? - A public servant? - A civilian?	No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Please complete SECTION 2
		No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Please complete SECTION 3
		No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Please complete SECTION 3

Your employment circumstances may require you to complete Sections 2 and 3

SECTION 2		Armed Forces	
8	Rank held during the F-111 Deseal/Reseal process	SGT, F/SGT.	
9	Service number	A19577	
10	Name of Unit	482 SQN.	
11	Details of work environment 1 <small>(If insufficient space, attach separate sheet)</small>	Location	482 SQN. RAAF Base, Amberley
		Dates	1973 - Jan 1980
		Duty assignment	REPAIRS OF F111C FUEL TANKS
		Nature of this employment	<input type="checkbox"/> LOCATION OF FUEL TANKS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DE-FUELING OF F111C FUEL TANKS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTRY OF FUEL TANKS IN REPAIRING AREA BY REMOVAL OF F111C SEAMANT, CLEANING, APPLYING NEW SEAMANT
		Duration of this	EVERY 48 HOURS THAT REQUIRED FUEL TANK ENTRY FOR REPAIR, REQUIRED HOURS OF WORK TO COMPLETE THIS PROCESS OF REPAIR



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### SECTION 4 Payment Details

18 Provide details of the Australian account you want your lump sum payment to be paid into

Name of bank, credit union or building society  
 Branch  
 Address  
 POSTCODE  
 Account title name  
 Account number  
 BSB number  
 Account type (e.g. savings)

### SECTION 5 Declaration

- I declare that the details provided in this form are complete and correct.
- I am aware that there are penalties for making false statements.
- I authorise the Repatriation Commission and the Department of Veterans Affairs to obtain information needed to process, determine or review this claim.
- I consent to the release of medical, clinical and other information to the Department of Veterans Affairs by all medical practitioners, hospitals, clinics, insurance companies, Carelink, the Department of Defence or other organisations involved in the claim or its review.

You must sign this form yourself if you can. Even if someone else has filled it in for you, if someone else signs on your behalf they must provide their authority for signing.

Signature *Anthony Clitic* 1/9/2005

Before returning this form please check the following

- Have you signed the declaration above and checked this form carefully?
- Have you filled in all the parts that apply to you?
- Have you enclosed any other evidence that you need to support your claim?

ALSO ENCLOSED  
 ALL COPIES OF  
 MY TRADE CERTIFICATES  
 (ALL TRADE COURSES)

Please send completed form to:  
 Repatriation Commission  
 Lump Sum Payment  
 PO Box 21  
 Wollan NSW 2806