



Submission 95

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

Name: **Mr George Hatchman**

Date: 11 Jul 2008

Attention To: Committee Secretary

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence, and Trade
Department of House of Representatives
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From: George Hatchman WOFF. RAAF

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Subject: Inquiry into RAAF F-111 Deseal Reseal workers and their families

Dear Mr Ali

I understand that you were advised that I was overseas throughout the period during which the new review was announced and applications were open. I further understand that you were advised that I would be providing a submission as soon as possible on my return home. I have now returned and have admit that locating and assembling the information is taking longer than I expected, in the midst of other pressing items resulting from my time away.

This letter is to advise you that I am back, to provide you with a basic outline of my situation and to indicate that as evidence is located, that I would like to add it to this enquiry.

I was employed at 482SQN RAAF Amberley over the period 26Aug86 – 13Jun90. During this period I was employed as WOFF I/C F-111 Technical Training Flight, responsible for the management and quality of training of F-111 technical personnel. While my principal location was within the training facility, my responsibilities frequently included physical visitations with instructors to F-111 aircraft maintenance activities, which included orientation of the F-111 Fuel Tanks and Deseal/Reseal processes, to ensure the qualification and integrity of training procedures.

While such exposure may have been relatively minimal, any subsequently acquired illnesses would have been masked by existing disabilities that relating to my previous employment associated with C-130 Fuel Tank maintenance activities (DVA documented) or have contributed to an aggravation of these disabilities.

Indeed, on my retirement from the RAAF 14Jun90, I was suffering from health issues that included; perennial tiredness, lethargy, URT discomfort and irritable bowel syndrome. At that time I realised my health variations would limit my chances of full time employment such that

I have maintained an income through self employment and investments that allow my own time management around my disabilities.

My health situation continues to deteriorate as a result of these disabilities and in addition, I suffer from increasing levels of painful muscular and skeletal joint aches. While I acknowledge that some level of these ailments can be associated with the ageing process, I firmly believe that in comparison to other males in my age group, I am experiencing advanced derogation of my health due my previous service related employment.

I therefore request that you accept my inclusion in this review,. I also understand that DFWA has made the point of similarities and parallels between F-111 Deseal and Reseal issues and the activities undertaken with C-130 Aircraft Fuel Tank matters.

I believe that the my RAAF experience and associated exposure to the F-111 Deseal/Reseal program and my legacy of disabilities from C-130 Fuel Tank maintenance activities have significant relevance to this enquiry and need to be heard.

George Hatchman

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