



Submission 77

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

Name: **Name withheld**

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 30 June 2008 3:29 PM
To: Committee, JSCFADT (REPS)
Subject: deseal/reseal

Dear Sir/Madam,

After reading the email I sent to you sent last week, my husband [REDACTED] said that "If I was going to tell you his story I should tell all of it, warts and all" and so I hope I am not too late to submit this to you.

Firstly, after surgery in 1972 for a Stage 3 Malignant Melanoma, Alan's specialists advised the RAAF that they should never post him in Queensland because of the threat to him of more cancers. So when they posted him to Amberley he was very distressed.

Whilst working in Amberley, having to carry and burn the stuff that came out of the F111's, he discovered from the men in America who were doing the same thing that there was a long list of carcinogenic in this stuff. He went to alert his superior and was told "Mind your own business and get back to work". No one he spoke to would listen to the dangers that they were exposing him and others too. This angered him after all he had been thru cancer before and didn't want it again.

He believes that his whole family unit was ruined by the effects of this stuff. His ex-wife started to find sexual pleasures from the teenage boyfriends of her daughter as she believed that [REDACTED] no longer wanted her. This thinking came from the fact that [REDACTED] was suffering unexplained mood swings and erectile dysfunction. She eventually left, taking [REDACTED] only biological child (a son) with her, and to this day this son has blamed his father for the marriage breakdown and remains alienated from [REDACTED]. This also means that [REDACTED] is missing out on the joy of his only biological grandchildren. [REDACTED] step daughter stayed with him and up to the day of her mothers' death in 2006 (from cancer) she would not a civil word to say to her. If her mother rang they would only argue. The brother and sister will not speak each other and their children don't know each other.

[REDACTED] originated from Townsville and today has his mother, 4 brothers and extended family are still living there. Due to carrying this stuff without the proper protective clothing he now suffers from a rash which is unbearable in the heat and humidity of Townsville, and so, makes it impossible to live and interact with his family and only able to visit in the winter.

Since 2005 when [REDACTED] first found out about the admission from the RAAF, he has become even more bitter. No amount of financial compensation could make up for the loss of health, family and lifestyle, but to be given such a small amount of money was just another smack in the guts for him. As he says "How could \$38,000 compensate for the loss of his manhood, his family and the knowledge that never again would he experience the simple act of sex. Put yourself in his shoes.

Due to his conditions we now have to live in a bus in which we travel north for the winter and south for the summer with no home, no family, no friends and no future. He finds it hard to socialise and the depression causes him to want isolation, and so we can go for weeks parked in the bush with no one near us. This can't be healthy for either of us! When we filled out forms, which the Goop Troop gave us, to go on a 4 day workshop with specialists to help, and other couples suffering from the same issues, we were so looking forward to this help. But alas, we were contacted and told that [REDACTED] was Teir 1 but needed to be in Group 1 to attend. Why? When the fellow he worked next to was in Group 1. Don't they deserve to be treated the same?

[REDACTED] concern is that each month there seems to be more fellow workers coming down with similar diseases which have been attributed to this stuff, and all he is asking for is a gold card so that when it happens to him he will be looked after by those who caused him to have these complaints.

From this enquiry he is hoping the outcome will see him being treated the same as he would have if this had of happened in a civilian occupation.

Thanking You Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

1/07/2008