



## **Submission No 16**

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

**Name:**                      **Mr Peter Wuoti**

RE: PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY.  
FIIC DEREAL/RESEAL.  
TERMS OF REFERENCE.

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~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
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~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to you to give information on my own circumstances in regard to the duties I was required to do during my service in the Airforce from 1980 to 1992.

From 1981 to 1992 I was a specialist FIIC Aircraft Technician. Employment in every FIIC Squadrons include 482 SQN, 6 SQN 1 SQN, 3 AD and 501 WG.

During 1986, I was hospitalized 3 times with health problems from working on the FIIC, with a diagnosis of ALLERGIC CONTACT DERMATITIS and associated secondary repercussions to my health.

My Supervisors where very concerned; a number of times sent me home, as I had been returned to work by the doctors to early.

I was on unofficial restricted duties as much as the superiors were able. See STATUORY DECLARATIONS from Alf Morgan 1986 to 1992 - ANNEX A ①+②

However during 1989 ISON was called upon by RAAF AMBEELEY DESEAL/RESEAL to carry out their work due to a manpower shortage in their section.

My section superiors were very aware of my hesitations to be "volunteered" for this roll! Due to their counselling, I finally agreed to fulfill their requirement for manpower!!!

I continued to have health problems & still present today. See Salary Variation Authority 1+2 from 1986, to confirm the exposure to the various duties & chemicals of the FIIC DESEAL RESEAL PROGRAM. ANNEX B ①+②.

I was officially Medical Fitness Board in 1991 & 1992, made MUDM. Medically Unfit for duties of Mustering, Permanent

The chemicals used in Deseal/RESEAL are recognised as being harmful, & in fact deadly. Yet, chemicals that are not normally harmful can be to individual like myself, suffering from active dermatoses.

In regard to definitions of a Deseal/RESEAL participant, I feel I match PART 2, 3 & PART 5. (ANNEX D)

2. A person who spent at least 30 cumulative working days on the Wing tank Program the period 1985-1992; or

3. A person who spent at least 60 cumulative working days carrying out Sealant Rework (Pick & Patch) during the period 1973-2000 while attached to an F111 deseal/reseal section.

5. A person who can demonstrate that they would have met one of the above criteria except for the fact that they;

- had an immediate physical reaction and
- required medical treatment or intervention
- were given a work restriction or medical fitness advice stating that they should

- not return to that working environment  
See ANNEX C<sup>①</sup> Specialist Advice &  
② Employment Standards Committee Record.  
③ Definition of a Desec/Resec Participant.

I am no longer able to continue with my career. Yet I am not being recognised as being exposed at ALL!! See reply from BARRY TELFORD for ex-gratia payment

During 1992 I was made M.U.D.M. thru the Medical Fitness Board Process. No RETRAINING/MUSTERING were offered. I was made redundant VIA a MANAGEMENT INITIATED PROGRAM

In 1993 I applied to the D.V.A to assist me with retraining this was refused! THEY STATED that I elected not to ACCEPT work within the RAAF. This was never offered and NEVER REFUSED!!

I was shown the door & then kicked out thru the paperwork of the RAAF MEDICAL SECTION. Then when I sought assistance I was STONE WALLED!; even though it was recognised that I would never be able to use my trade again!

The D.V.A continue with this refusal to accept responsibility for their actions

They DENY the fact that I was formally engaged in the DESER/RESER program, even though they have paperwork. "I was not formally engaged in the program" quote. and only had cause to be "exposed" as a result of my work.

The financial implications of these decisions have been immense. The emotional & health consequences for myself & my family are indefinable. I feel I should be compensated for physical, mental, emotional, financial

a lifestyle damage inflicted for a period of 25 years already.

All the records of their actions & the treatment of myself are still available, but continue to deny their "duty of care" & is a main cause of concern.

### Question B.

I had been exposed in the early 1980s to chemicals that lead to hospitalization & chronic health problems. In 1989 they continued to put my life at risk by involving myself in the FIIC DESBAC/RESBAC program. SEE ANNEX B.

### Question 2.2

I feel the current provisions for compensation should recognize the terrible treatment dished out to myself. The MUDM decision was forced upon myself, then re-trenched, then harassed by a unsympathetic department when I asked for assistance

with rehabilitation & compensation.

In my case I have been treated negligently by Medical Section, the RAAF D.P.A & the Department of Veteran Affairs in their dealing with myself.

Your Sincerely

Pete Wuoti

A232249

ATTACHED  
ANNEX D DESEAL/RESEAL PARTICIPANTS

ANNEX A

STATUTORY DECLARATIONS

SUPERVISORS 1986 - 1991

ANNEX B

SALARY VARIATION AUTHORITY

DESEAL/RESEAL PAYMENT

ANNEX C

SPECIALIST ADVICE 1992

EMPLOYMENT STANDARD COMMITTEE.



AUSTRALIA

STATUTORY DECLARATION

- (1) Here insert name, address and occupation of person making the declaration.
- (2) Here insert matter declared to. Where the matter is long, add the words "as follows:" and then set the matter out in numbered paragraphs.

I, <sup>(1)</sup> ALF MORGAN  
do solemnly and sincerely declare <sup>(2)</sup> PETER WUOTI WAS UNDER MY SUPERVISION FROM MARCH 1986, TO APRIL 1990.

DURING SEPTEMBER 1986, HE CONTRACTED CONTACT DERMATITIS. THIS OCCURRED WHILST EMPLOYED ON TASKS AS AN ENGINE FITTER ON FLIGHT LINE. HIS DUTIES INCLUDED HAND WASHING AIRCRAFT, OIL FILTER, FUEL FILTER, & ENGINE COMPONENT CHANGES, ALSO REFUEL/DEFUEL OPERATIONS. ALL THESE DUTIES EXPOSED HIM TO F34 AVTUR, WHICH IS KEROSENE CONTAINING PSII & HITEC ADDITIVES, AND MOBIL JET OIL II.

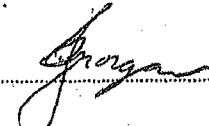
IT WAS DECIDED, IN HIS BEST INTERESTS, WE WOULD RESTRICT HIM, WHERE POSSIBLE, TO LIMIT HIS EXPOSURE TO THESE SUBSTANCES. AFTER A PERIOD OF TIME, AND WITH TREATMENT, HIS CONDITION IMPROVED.

DURING A DETACHMENT TO THE PHILIPPINES IN MAY 1987, HIS CONDITION REOCCURRED, THIS MAY HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY A HEAVY SECTION WORKLOAD, AND AS A RESULT OF THIS, HIS INCREASED EXPOSURE TO FUELS AND LUBRICANTS.

I make this solemn declaration by virtue of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* as amended and subject to the penalties provided by that Act for the making of false statements in statutory declarations, conscientiously believing the statements contained in this declaration to be true in every particular.


- (3) Signature of person making the declaration.

Declared at AMBERLEY  
on 23RD AUGUST, 19 91.

(3) 

- (4) Signature of person before whom the declaration is made.

before me,

(4) 

- (5) Here insert title of person before whom the declaration is made.

(5) D. J. McCASKIE  
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE (Q.)

NOTE 1.—A person who wilfully makes a false statement in a statutory declaration under the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* as amended is guilty of an offence against that Act, the punishment for which is a fine not exceeding \$200 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or both if the offence is prosecuted summarily, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding four years if the offence is prosecuted upon indictment.

NOTE 2.—A statutory declaration under the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* as amended may be made only before a Chief, Police, Resident or Special Magistrate; Stipendiary Magistrate or any Magistrate in respect of whose office an annual salary is payable; a Justice of the Peace; a person authorised under any law in force in Australia or its Territories to take affidavits; a person appointed under the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* as amended or under a State Act to be a Commissioner for Declarations; a person appointed as a Commissioner for Declarations under the *Statutory Declarations Act 1911*, or under that Act as amended, and holding office immediately before the commencement of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*; a Notary Public; a person before whom a statutory declaration may be made under the law of the State in which a declaration is made; or a person appointed to hold, or act in, the office in a country or place outside Australia of Australian Consul-General, Consul, Vice-Consul, Trade Commissioner, Consular Agent, Ambassador, High Commissioner, Minister, Head of Mission, Commissioner, Charge d'Affaires, or Counsellor, Secretary or Attache at an Embassy, High Commissioner's office, Legation or other post.

ANNEX A①

STATUTORY DECLARATION

(1) Here insert name, address and occupation of person making the declaration.

I, <sup>(1)</sup> Paul Davis Banks Creek Rd Fernvale Eng RHZ RAAF do solemnly and sincerely declare<sup>(2)</sup>

(2) Here insert matter declared to. Where the matter is long add the words 'as follows:' and then set the matter out in numbered paragraphs.

CPh Wuoti worked for me from Nov 90 untill Mar 91. During this time his duties included assembly of TF30 engines in for repair, these engines had not been through the overhaul chain as a result components were still covered with grease, oil and accumulated dirt. During this period CPh Wuoti's skin condition became quite bad. As a result of his deteriorating condition CPh Wuoti was moved from this section to a cleaner work environment in the hope that the move might alleviate his condition.

I make this solemn declaration by virtue of the Statutory Declarations Act 1959 as amended and subject to the penalties provided by that Act for the making of false statements in statutory declarations, conscientiously believing the statements contained in this declaration to be true in every particular.

(3) Signature of person making the declaration.

(3) *P. Davis*

Declared at RAAF Base Amberley on Friday 27 September 1991

before me,

(4) Signature of person before whom the declaration is made.

(4) *[Signature]*

(5) Here insert title of person before whom the declaration is made.

(5)

NOTE 1.—A person who willfully makes a false statement in a statutory declaration under the Statutory Declarations Act 1959 as amended is guilty of an offence against that Act, the punishment for which is a fine not exceeding \$100 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or both if the offence is prosecuted summarily, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding four years if the offence is prosecuted upon indictment.

NOTE 2.—A statutory declaration under the Statutory Declarations Act 1959 as amended may be made only before a Chief, Police, Resident or Special Magistrate; Stipendiary Magistrate or any Magistrate in respect of whose office an annual salary is payable; a Justice of the Peace; a person authorised under any law in force in Australia or its Territories to take affidavits; a person appointed under the Statutory Declarations Act 1959 as amended or under a State Act to be a Commissioner for Declarations; a person appointed as a Commissioner for Declarations under the Statutory Declarations Act 1911, or under that Act as amended; and holding office immediately before the commencement of the Statutory Declarations Act 1959; a Notary Public; a person before whom a statutory declaration may be made under the law of the State in which a declaration is made; or a person appointed to hold, or act in, the office in a country or place outside Australia of Australian Consul-General, Consul, Vice-Consul, Trade Commissioner, Consul Agent, Ambassador, High Commissioner, Minister, Head of Mission, Commissioner, Charge d'Affaires, or Counsellor, Secretary or Attache at an Embassy, High Commissioner's office, Legation or other post.

ANNEX A(2)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE  
SALARY VARIATION AUTHORITY

RAAF

GREEN: ACTION COPY  
BLUE: MEMBERS COPY

Pay Level/Inc 6/0	Surname WUOTI	Initials P J	Substantive Rank LAC	Must/Emp/ Category 6/0 ENG FITZ	Pay Station ASSAMB	Pay Point 27	SVA No 89			
Married Quarter No 2	GRS Group 10	Pay Method NPD	TAXATION DETAILS			LEAVE BONUS (Years Paid)	Effective Pay Day Date 26OCT89	Pay Period 90/09	Pay Station Code 81003	Entitlement This Fortnight 622.09
		Ex Ind EXM	Rebate	Zone NON	Home Int YES	88	87	86	85	84

RTNIGHTLY RATES					DETAILS OF TRANSACTIONS PROCESSED THIS PAY PERIOD						
Deductions		Allotments			Authority	Effect Date	Nature of Transaction	Effect on Gross Earnings	Effect on DFRDB Contributions	Effect on Other Deductions	TOTAL
Code	Amount	No	Amount	Method Code							
Q20	100.00	28	87.50	11017	45004828906274	12OCT89	DSEAL/RESEAL ALLCE	168.42			168.42
F00	57.50	76	30.00	32039	45004828906218	12OCT89	DSEAL/RESEAL ALLCE	168.42			168.42
X	239.60	8H	10.40	38082							
		9J	58.25	38092							
		10K	58.25	38092							
AL	397.12	TOTAL	244.40		Sequence No	1573				TOTAL	336.84

TOTAL TAX EFFECT 131.36  
NET ADJUSTMENT 205.48

COUNT BALANCE AT P/P 90/09 IS 0.00 13OCT89

ANNEX B

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE  
SALARY VARIATION AUTHORITY

NAME

GREEN: ACTION COPY  
BLUE: MEMBERS COPY

Pay Level/Incl	6/0	Substantive Rank	LAC	Initials	P J	Must/Empl Category	6/0 ENG F1172	Pay Station	AS5AMB	Pay Point	27	SVA No	88
Married	20511	GRS Group	50	Home Int	YES	LEAVE BONUS (Years Paid)	86 87 88 85	Effective Pay Day Date	31 AUG 89	Pay Period	90/05	Pay Station Code	81003
Ex Incl	EXM	TAXATION DETAILS	Zone	NON	Authority	DETAILS OF TRANSACTIONS PROCESSED THIS PAY PERIOD							
Alloctments	No	Amount	Method Code	Effect Date	Nature of Transaction	Effect on Gross Earnings	Effect on DFRDB Contributions	Effect on Other Deductions	TOTAL				
28	67.50	11017		17 AUG 89	RESEAL/RESEAL ALICE	49.56			49.56				
76	30.00	32039											
84	10.40	38082											
91	58.25	38092											
10K	58.25	38092											
AL	397.12	TOTAL	244.40	Sequence No	569					TOTAL	49.56		
COURT BALANCE AT P/P 90/05 IS										0.00	TAX EFFECT	19.32	
										18 AUG 89	NET ADJUSTMENT	30.24	

ANNEX B②

A.C.N. 0TU 632 009  
R. C. NEEDHAM MEDICAL PTY. LTD.  
**DR. ROBERT C. NEEDHAM**  
M.B., B.S., D.D.M., F.A.C.D.  
TELEPHONE 831 9550

2643  
MRS

MORRIS TOWERS  
149 WICKHAM TERRACE.  
BRISBANE 4000.

19 May 1992

Mr C M Thorne  
Delegate of the Commission for the Safety,  
Rehabilitation and Compensation of Commonwealth Employees  
Department of Defence  
GPO Box 2465  
BRISBANE 4001

Dear Sir

RE CPL PETER JAMES WUOTI - 91/WQR/83

This patient joined the RAAF on the 15 July 1980 as a trainee engine fitter. He became an engine fitter the following year and his occupation involved engine and aircraft maintenance. In the course of his occupation he was in contact with oils, greases, kerosene, aviation fuel and was frequently obliged to wash his hands in gels and other detergents. He first developed dermatitis which put him off work in 1986. He was off work for a period of six weeks. The dermatitis began on his legs and spread to become generalised involving his limbs, hands, face and groin. He suffered from the condition on and off for a period of a year and then he avoided dirtier work and the condition settled down. It flared up again at the end of 1990 and once again spread to involve a large area of his body and he was off work for a few weeks. He is still in the RAAF but is now doing paper work and is not exposed to any irritants.

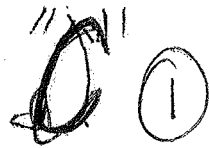
Examination at the time of consultation revealed a small patch of dermatitis on his left upper thigh anteriorly. There was a very small patch on his left forearm.

Answering the questions in the protocol:

- 1 His skin is now virtually clear but he did suffer from a direct irritant contact dermatitis.
- 2 He suffered from this periodically during his work from 1981 until the present time.
- 3 This condition was brought about by the external irritants namely the oils, greases, kerosene, aviation fuel and the frequent washing of his hands in the course of his occupation.
- 4 He should avoid occupations in which he is exposed to severe irritants as if he is exposed to these irritants he will doubtless develop a further attack of direct irritant contact dermatitis.
- 5 He will require treatment for his dermatitis should he have a flare up due to exposure to various irritants.
- 6 Provided he avoids contact with direct irritants he should have no further trouble at all.

Yours faithfully

*R C Needham*  
R C Needham

ANNEX 

423

4

STAFF-IN-CONFIDENCE

Department of Defence

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS COMMITTEE RECORD

MEMBER'S SERVICE PARTICULARS

Rank CPL	Surname WUOTI	Christian or Given Names PETER JAMES	
Category/Mustering ENGFITT2	Unit 501WG	Date of Birth 05 JUN 61	
SFP 12 YRS 02 MTHS	TPE 14 JUL 95		
Date of Commencement of Non-Effective Posting (if applicable) NOTE: Limitation of period of non-effective posting imposed by AFR 628(2) AFR 531(3) or AFR 531(4) N/A		Date of Medical Fitness Board 29 OCT 92	

DGAFHS COMMENTS

1. DGAFHS makes the following comments on:


a. The effect(s) of the member's condition on the ability to perform primary duties and general service duties.  
Although the dermatitis has not completely disappeared, it is better since he has been performing technical clerical duties. This suggests avoiding contact with oils etc in his mustering, these are the likely cause in aggravation of his dermatitis. This makes him unfit duties of his mustering.

b. The member's health care requirements.  
The member requires access to RAAFMO or equivalent medical care.

Recommended ES


G7P - MUDM ENGFITT  
Other suitable musterings:  
A4-G3P-Z4P

2. The following additional comments are made. (If in session consideration is recommended, state reasons here).

Signature 	Printed Name R.G. ZERULL	Rank LTCOL	Date 22 DEC 92
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102 (R 9/86)

STAFF-IN-CONFIDENCE

ANNEX  (2)

STAFF-IN-CONFIDENCE

EX-CPL P.J. WUOTI A232249 ENGFITT2

DPO-AF/DPA COMMENTS

3. The recommended employment standard restrictions would have the following implications for the member's future employability.

Recommended ES will have no impact on Ex-CPL Wuoti's postability and employability. He discharged from the RAAF on 11 Dec 92.

4. Comments on the reporting history and performance with particular reference to current duties, including UMDR and Health Statement of the member.


Assessed as being 'moderately better than most' in his last AER and has a sound reporting history overall. CPL Wuoti suffers from a form of dermatitis which is not caused by, but is possibly exacerbated by handling oils. At the time of discharge he was employed in a clerical role following MFR advice in Jan 92 that he is unfit to handle oils and fuel. Notwithstanding the obvious difficulties such restrictions cause to an ENGFITT, ex-CPL Wuoti maintained an excellent Service attitude and was keen to minimise the impact of his condition.

5. If MUDC or MUDM is the decision, comment on what alternative employment, if any, can be offered.

N/A

6. DPO-AF/DPA Summation (If in session consideration is recommended, state reasons here).

CPL Wuoti discharged from the RAAF on 11 Dec 92, under the provisions of the RAAF Redundancy Program. Given that had he not elected this course of action he would have been MUDM, in-session discussion may be warranted in this case.

Signature 	Printed Name S.K. DICKER	Rank WGCDR A/DPA	Date 29 Jan 93
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STAFF-IN-CONFIDENCE

ANNEX C2

**DEFINITION OF A DESEAL/RESEAL PARTICIPANT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE LUMP SUM PAYMENT SCHEME**

**Tier 1 - \$40,000**

A person who meets any one of the following criteria will be eligible to receive a lump sum payment of \$40,000:

1. A person who spent at least 30 cumulative working days on the Fuselage Deseal/Reseal or Respray Programs during the period 1977 - 1982, 1991 - 1993 and 1996 - 2000, whose duties involved working inside F-111 fuel tanks; or
2. A person who spent at least 30 cumulative working days on the Wing tank program during the period 1985 - 1992; or
3. A person who spent at least 60 cumulative working days carrying out Sealant Rework ( Pick and Patch) during the period 1973 - 2000 while attached to an F-111 deseal/reseal section; or
4. Boiler and Plant Attendants whose usual place of duty was the Base Incinerator as an Incinerator operator and who spent at least 30 cumulative working days undertaking these duties during the period 1976 - 1986; or
5. A person who can demonstrate that they would have met one of the above criteria except for the fact that they:
  - had an immediate physical reaction; and
  - required medical treatment or intervention; and
  - were given a work restriction or medical fitness advice (PM 101) stating that they should not return to that working environment.

**Tier 2 - \$10,000**

A person who meets any one of the following criteria will be eligible to receive a lump sum payment of \$10,000:

1. A person who spent between 10 and 29 cumulative working days on the Fuselage Deseal/Reseal or Respray Programs during the period 1977 - 1982, 1991 - 1993 and 1996 - 2000, whose duties involved working inside F-111 fuel tanks; or
2. A person who spent between 10 and 29 cumulative working days on the Wing tank program during the period 1985 - 1992; or
3. A person who spent between 20 and 59 cumulative working days carrying out Sealant Rework (Pick and Patch) during the period 1973 - 2000 while attached to an F-111 deseal/reseal section; or
4. Boiler and Plant Attendants whose usual place of duty was the Base Incinerator as an Incinerator operator and who spent between 10 and 29 cumulative working days undertaking these duties during the period 1976 - 1986; or
5. Fire Fighters employed as Instructors whose usual place of duty was the Fire Training School fire pits and who spent at least 60 cumulative working days actively involved in the burning of by-products from the F-111 DSRS process during the period 1976 - 1990; or
6. Personnel who were not involved in tank entry and whose usual place of duty was the Rag Hangar for 60 cumulative working days during the period Dec 1977 - Nov 1983; or
7. Personnel who were not involved in tank entry and whose usual place of duty was Hangar 255, 260, 277 or 278 for a continuous period of 60 cumulative working days during the period 1977 - 1982, 1991 - 1993 and 1996 - 2000; or
8. A person who can demonstrate that they would have met one of the above criteria except for the fact that they:
  - had an immediate physical reaction; and
  - required medical treatment or intervention; and
  - were given a work restriction or medical fitness advice (PM 101) stating that they should not return to that working environment.

**Note:** Only one ex-gratia payment may be made regardless of how many times a person may be eligible. Where a claimant is assessed as eligible for both payments, the higher amount will be paid.

ANNEX D.①



T BY:

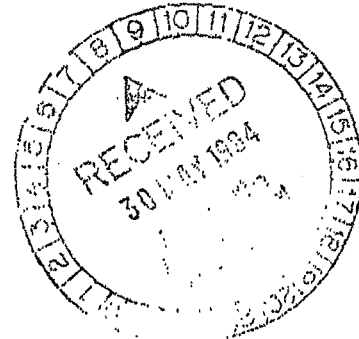
"D"  
1- 6-94 ; 12:21 ; ADMIN APPEALS TRIB. →

61 7 3605799:# 2/10

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

The Deputy Registrar,  
Administrative Appeals Tribunal,  
G.P.O. Box 9955,  
BRISBANE, 4001

AAI REFERENCE: Q 94/32



I am informing you that I wish to have the AAT review my appeal. I have since sort legal advice on my claim, and have been advised to continue to seek compensation. It has been recognised by the Department of Defence that they have a continuing liability for negligence and the damage, stress and loss of trade and income that it has caused.

CASE HISTORY

Mr Wuoti Born on 5th June, 1961 enlisted in RAAF on 15th July, 1980, MPB 17th September, 1992, offered Redundancy Package 25th November, 1992, accepted offer 1st December, 1992 and was discharged on 11th December, 1992.

On the 23rd August, 1991, Mr Wuoti lodged a claim for compensation through RAAF Medical and attributed this condition to contact with toxic chemicals during his service. (I have a copy of document on file) This claim was lodged after being advised to be the Delegate of the Repatriation Commission.

In late October, 1991. I sent additional information to the Rehabilitation and Compensation section. They responded stating they did not receive the original claim form. At this stage I filled another claim form which I personally posted. In a letter dated 13th July, 1992 the Dept. of defence accepted liability.

(1) If you considered you have a residual disability as a result of the compensatable condition, you should advise this office immediately. This I did with correspondence on the 24th August, 1992. (AAI DOC. T30)

(2) If you have suffered a loss of income, you should advise this office immediately. This I did on the 1st January, 1993. I had registered with the C.E.S. in this month and they said I could not be employed in my trade as a Fitter because of my condition.

I underwent a Medical Fitness Board on the 17th September, 1992 and was told it would take about 8 weeks for a decision to be made and that I was very likely to be made Medically Unfit for future Service. At this stage, I was extremely distressed, resulting in counselling by a psychologist. The M.F.B. Report was made and signed by the Medical Officer on the 29th October, 1992. This report was not released until 5th March, 1993. No other musteringings were offered to me. (AAI DOC. PT24)

P.J. Wuoti

Page 2.

In light of all the major changes, I was made aware of the Force Structure Review and associated Trade by the DPA and visited Mustering Reviews, which meant down sizing personnel numbers by 20%. I was told by a Senior Officer (who was visiting the base in 1992, regarding RAAF restructuring) that the RAAF didn't want personnel that were incapable of fulfilling all requirements of their chosen career. (Basic requirements such as field and tactical deployment I was incapable of doing on advise. AAT Doc No.PT24 shows that this became Permanent and that I was offered no other suitable mustering)

On the 23rd September, 1992 I received a message from the Chief of Air Staff Branch informing me of their "management" initiated redundancy program. (REF FILE NO. AF 92/13505) On the 25th September, 1992 I expressed interest for discharge on Redundancy Terms in which I made it known that a Medical Fitness Board decision was pending. I had been advised they were likely to make me Medically Unfit for Future Service. I felt a redundant worker has less of a stigma then being discharged as MUFS.

If the E.S.C. determines that a member is medically unfit for the duties of his mustering, if appropriate alternative employment is not available, he may be discharged as MUFS, or at own request. Appropriate alternative employment is defined in D1(AF) PERS 53-12 Members who decline an offer of appropriate alternative employment may be discharged on grounds other than medical unfitness except in the case of members of the general duties branch. D1(AF)5-11  
OTHER SUITABLE MUSTERINGS (AAT DOC.PT 24)  
NON LISTED

An offer of redundancy was made to me on the 25th November, 1992. I interpreted this offer as the DPA's decision on my future career with the RAAF.

INVOLUNTARY RETIREMENT - Formerly involved death or discharge for medical or disciplinary reasons. It now includes those offered and accepting redundancy packages.

Correspondence 24th August, 1992. - I notified you of a permanent impairment - No Reply (AAT DOC. T30)

1st January, 1993 - Informed them I suffered a loss of income as a result of my compensatable condition (AAT DOC.T31)

29th March, 1993 - I sent information that was requested, by the department (AAT DOC. T32)

26th August, 1993 - They noted that I had an opportunity to be transferred to a different mustering within the RAAF but were not interested. (AAT DOC. T33) - This offer of suitable employment is not listed and was not offered to me. The only offer made to me was the Retrenchment ten(10) weeks after my M.F.B.

P.J. Wholli

Page 3.

1st September, 1993 - I asked for a review for claim of compensation. (AAT DOC. T34)

14th October, 1993 - They asked for a copy of the opportunity for remuster and my reply. (AAT DOC. T35) - No such offer.

22nd November, 1993 - Was not offered an opportunity to re-muster as he expressed an interest in a redundancy package. (AAT DOC. T37) - This was because I was told I could be made MUPS, due to my condition. RAAF Redundancy Program REF FILE NO. AF 92/13505.

(1) "The fact that the member expressed interest will not in any way adversely affect his career."

(2) "Air Force Office will invite selected personnel to accept redundancy."

(3) "Members should note that selection for redundancy is not a right and nothing in this message confers a right for any particular individual to be selected under this redundancy program."

RECONSIDERATION (AAT DOC. PT38)

It stated "I am further satisfied that you are not incapacitated for work". (A reference in this Act to an incapacity for work is a reference to an incapacity suffered by an employee as a result of an injury being: an incapacity to engage in work at the same level at which he was engaged by the Commonwealth in the work or any other work immediately before the injury happened.

I am now permanently incapacitated to engage in work at the same level. (AAT DOC. PT24) I was first injured in September, 1986 and the first official step to protect me from further injury was at a M.F.B. on the 19th November, 1991. This decision came about by my persistence about the need for better treatment and testing, as the condition was destroying my health. A Statutory Declaration by my supervisors at the time states when the condition first become obvious, my supervisors knew it would be in my best interest to limit my exposure to harsh substances where possible.

Due to the neglect shown in my case, I believe the extent of the incapacity would have been significantly less if cared for properly and safety precautions were enforced.

"The Occupational Health and Safety practices circa 1986 may not have been as strict as those which currently prevail. The member may not have been afforded the protection from chemical exposure eg. he may have worn gloves that allowed subsequent chemical penetration". (Occupational Health Report AAT DOC. T17& T18)

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Commission is liable to pay compensation in accordance Commonwealth Employees Rehabilitation and Compensation Act, in respect of an injury suffered by an employee if the injury results in incapacity for work, or impairment.

\* "impairment" the damage or malfunction, of any part of the body,  
 \* "injury" a disease or an injury suffered by an employee arising out of or in the course of the employees employment.

\* "Permanent" - likely to continue indefinitely. (AAT DOC. PT34 & T27)

\* "Non-Economic Loss" in relation to an employee who has suffered an injury resulting in a permanent impairment, means loss or damage of a non-economic kind suffered by the employee (including pain and suffering, a loss of expectation of life or a loss of the amenities or enjoyment of life) as a result of that injury or impairment and of which the employee is aware.

Suitable employment - (a) in the case of an employee who, on the day on which he or she was injured was a permanent employee of the Commonwealth and who did not subsequently terminate that employment- employment by the commonwealth in work by which the employee is suited having regard to (i), (ii), (iii), (iv).

(b) in any other case - any employment (including self employment), having regard to the matters specified in subparagraphs (a) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv).

In the C.F.R. & C Act 1988 FUNCTIONS-102 - to minimise the duration and severity of injuries to its employees.

#### EXSERTS OF INITIAL CASE HISTORY

On the 28th October, 1986 because of a re-exacerbation Contact Dermatitis and Secondary Sensitisation. Dr. Yates suggested trial of Celestone Tabs. (Re-review of symptoms fail to settle. Review after tabs.

On the 31st October, 1986. Reaction to steroids. Generalised wheals - no difficulty breathing, cease Steroids. - Admitted to hospital.

10th November, 1986 - exposed to oil and seen problems.

11th February, 1987 - Skin condition is now quiescent. Warned about Intermittent swelling of LN's.

2nd March, 1987 - Erythematous facial eruption with tiny pustules. Had similar eruption, November, 1986.  
 ?Photosensitive eruption.

4th March, 1987 - Settling continues

7th April, 1987 - Drug Allergy - Nil. Ongoing treatment - Nil.  
 - Even though I had a reaction to steroids on 31st October, 1986, and was still receiving treatment for contact dermatitis.

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15th May, 1987 - Now getting intermittent erythematous rash on arms and trunk itch ++. This AM woke and swelling of lips this subsided in a few hours.

HX of int recurrent illness or recent chemical contact.  
P.D. Allergic reaction to ?.

15th September, 1987 - Member regularly exposed to Cleaning solvent TURCO 5884.

29th September, 1987 - Skin complaint to face and neck. Same as before - Sun exposure (?photosensitive). eczematous neck and facial eruption. Same on body also.

1st October, 1987 - Face has worsened. Other areas are same on the improve. Add facial treatment 2% urea in aqueous cream. See next week.

2nd October, 1987 - Working outside in the sun.

2nd October, 1987 - Worsened again, weeping with some pustules on face. See in three days 3/7.

COMMENT - DR. I. Archibald. Dermatology Speciality 24/9/1986. He should avoid exposure to the sun. (AAT DOC. T6)  
6th October, 1986 - It is probable that improvement of the condition will be slow. (AAT DOC. T7)

Under the Commonwealth Act, it is the responsibility of the employer to "take all reasonably practicable steps to protect the health and safety at work of the employers' employees (S16 OH & S Act).

An employee shall be taken to have sustained an injury, being a disease on the day when (1) the employee first sought medical treatment for the disease.

Medical Section took no steps to protect an employee with a known history of sensitivity. Even though my original supervisors in 1986 realised there was a problem with my working environment. Declaration: SGT Alf Morgan. "It was decided in his best interest, we would restrict him, where possible, to limit his exposure to these substances." (ANX.B)

Substances in this statement refers to F34 AVTUR and MOBIL JET OIL II. We used F34 AVTUR for hand washing aircraft even though safety data recommends it not be used for parts cleaning. Skin contact causes defatting which leads to irritation, infection and dermatitis. This product contains (FSII) Fuel System Icing Inhibitor. For further information see DI (AF) AAP 6700-003 Chapter 23.

Mobil Jet Oil II - Signs and symptoms of exposure - prolonged or repeated skin contact may cause skin irritation. Continuous contact with used motor oil has caused skin cancer. Product has a low order of acute oral and dermal toxicity, but minute amounts aspirated into the lungs during ingestion may cause mild to severe pulmonary injury and possibly death.

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Medical Section treatment of my condition was negligent. Successful treatment of dermatitis of an occupational origin depends upon an accurate diagnosis, separation of the worker from the causative and contributing agents; avoidance of over treatment, protection of the skin from non-specific irritants; prompt recognition and treatment of secondary infection and careful patient instruction.

Chemicals that are not normally considered dangerous may be dangerous to individuals suffering from active inflammatory dermatoses. The long term application of the topical steroids has resulted in unsightly striae which can last for years. The major side effects include burning, loss of skin colour, blistering, redness and secondary infection.

27th May, 1994 - I am still suffering from this condition, which requires on going treatment with secondary infection a regular occurrence due to the injury.

ANNEXS.

- (A) Enclosed a clear copy of (AAT DOC. PTA, Page 10)
- (B) Statutory Declaration - Alf Morgan
- (C) Statutory Declaration - Paul Davis


PERSONAL STATEMENT

With regard to AAT DOC. T33 Paragraph -

"I acknowledge the fact that you are no longer employed as a fitter as a result of your compensatable condition. However, I am satisfied that you removed yourself from alternative employment with the RAAF to pursue a Golfing career. I therefore do not consider it appropriate to provide you with rehabilitation assistance because Golfing did not prove to be remunerative and you are now not able to obtain alternative employment."

- As I am no longer able to be employed as a fitter (due to my inflicted condition), I have to start a new career. This usually means starting at the bottom (with no relevant qualifications) and working my way towards being fully qualified. As I have no other skills besides my golfing ability, which you state "did not prove remunerative" (Meaning - profitable, lucrative, fat, rich). I did in fact obtain alternative employment with the PGA, in which I did make money as well as finishing 22nd QLD PGA Order of Merit, 1993. As this was my first year it did not prove lucrative. I am still applying for a Trainee Professional position, working in a Golf business to learn skills of Golf Management which will prove remunerative in the long term. I am limited to the type of employment in which I can undertake. Having to take into consideration, environment, skills, age, etc.,

Yours faithfully,



PETER WUOTI