



**Submission No 43**

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

**Name: Mr Brian Cottrell**

The Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade  
Committee activities (inquiries and reports)

### **Inquiry into RAAF F-111 Deseal-Reseal workers and their families**

Dear Sir

I wish to lodge a submission to the above-mentioned inquiry by addressing the following paragraph and particular dot point in the Terms of Reference to the Inquiry;

“The inquiry will consider whether the overall handling and administration of ex gratia and compensation claims was appropriate, timely and transparent for both participants and their families. The inquiry will consider whether, but not be limited to:

- There has been equitable treatment of service personnel, public servants, civilian employees and contractors involved in Deseal/Reseal activities;”

With respect to the “overall handling and administration of the ex gratia and compensation” payments, I submit that there was not equitable treatment of RAAF personnel involved in the Deseal/Reseal activities performed on the fuel tanks of the F111 aircraft at RAAF Base Amberley, in regards to those RAAF personnel who performed ‘Pick and Patch’ repairs remotely from the Deseal/Reseal section at 501 Wing, namely personnel posted to the operational units (1SQN and 6 SQN).

The original inquiry set very specific criteria, as to who was eligible to receive either a Tier 1 or Tier 2 lump sum payment (attached), however the personnel performing ‘Pick and Patch’ sealant repairs at the operating units were not included in the definition of a Deseal/Reseal participant and therefore were ineligible to receive a lump sum payment.

Having spent a period of 5 years (Jan 1986 – Jan 1991) as an Aircraft Technician at 1 SQN, I can attest to the amount of time dedicated to the repair of aircraft fuel leaks at the operational units, and I would estimate that the tradesmen and supervisors would have far exceeded the cumulative working days as stipulated in the “Definition of a Deseal/Reseal Participant” (attached) over that period of time.

I request that this inquiry does take into account those RAAF personnel who performed ‘Pick and Patch’ repairs of the fuel tanks of the F111 aircraft remotely from the Deseal/Reseal section, as they also suffered exposure to the same chemicals and sealants over extended periods of time

Yours sincerely



Brian Cottrell

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24 June 2008  
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