



Submission 94

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

Name: Ms Kylie Stoneman

From: Stoneman, Kylie (S. Neumann, MP)
Sent: Tuesday, 8 July 2008 5:11 PM
To: Committee, JSCFADT (REPS)
Subject: FW: Reseal/ deseal

Dear Sir/Madam

First of all can I apologise for the lateness of this correspondence, unfortunately the following information was not followed through on when it was first brought into the office. Shayne respectfully requests that you could include the following within the scope of the current Reseal/Deseal inquiry.

I write regarding Mr Bevan Victor who approached Shayne regarding his squadron, in particular Mr Peter Kelly (Cpl/Sgt Airframe Fitter) at 482Sqn. Mr Victor has supplied Shayne with Mr Kelly's old pay records which show Deseal/Reseal Allowance, Hazardous Chemical Allowance and Confined Space Allowance. These allowances were paid to Mr Kelly and other personnel during the period that Mr Victor was the Warrant Officer in Charge. Mr Victor also supplied Mr Kelly's diary notes from that period as well.

Mr Victor asks the following questions

- Why did some personnel receive the ex gratia payment (in some cases up to \$10 000) when they at no time entered the aircraft fuel tanks and yet personnel who worked for months at a time performing pick and patch repairs at 482Sqn and were paid the reseal/deseal allowance are not even considered?
- If the work at 482Sqn was considered different to that of the 3 AD reseal/deseal section workers, why were 482Sqn personnel kept on 'breathing air' and were at all times rotated every hour with a person outside the fuel tanks who kept a close watch on the person working inside the tanks? These personnel had to sign fuel tank entry sheets on a daily basis because of the hazardous nature of the work.
- Why did they differentiate between group 1 participants (e.g. 3AD reseal/deseal personnel who received the ex gratia payment) and 482Sqn personnel who are also group 1 participants but did not receive the payment?
- Why is there no recognition for chemical exposure under the Veteran's Affairs SOP'S? 99% of claims submitted by personnel involved were rejected on the grounds that there is nothing that covers this in the SOP'S.
- Why did the Board of Inquiry that was set up originally never even considered the plight of workers at 482Sqn? They forgot to include these personnel who worked for years in the fuel tanks under terrible conditions performing similar work to that of the workers at 3AD. Personnel at 482Sqn received deseal/reseal allowance, hazardous chemical allowance and confined space allowance; the same allowances that the 3AD reseal/deseal workers received but up to now have received nothing in ex gratia lump sum payments.

The men managed by Mr Victor performed for at least three years the exact same work to that of the pick and patch maintenance workers at 3AD who have received ex-gratia payments from the commonwealth. Mr Victor believes that as well as

support for their health care needs, 482Sqn members deserve Tier One recognition for the exceptional circumstances they were in for the years 1987 to 1990.

Mr Victor would like to see his squadron included in the current inquiry.

Once again, I thank you for considering this late request and look forward to your response.

Regards

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