



**Submission No 57**

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

**Name: Mr Andrew Morrell**

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**Defence and Trade's Inquiry into RAAF F-111 Deseal-Reseal workers and their families.**

Muzammil Ali,

Please find attached my submission to the terms of reference for the Defence and Trade's Inquiry into RAAF F-111 Deseal-Reseal workers and their families.

- In relation to the Health Care Scheme I have not accessed any benefits to date. As I was involved in the DSRS program in 1989 / 1990 as a 19 year old boy, I suspect any significant health issues may still be looming as I age and therefore I will need to access the scheme at a later time. I find it inconsistent that I have had claims rejected by DVA for problems I have as a result of the DSRS work, however I believe I will be able to access only medical treatment under the health care scheme for the same problems. This would indicate to me that this decision by DVA to deny my claims was indeed a financial decision with no regard for my long term welfare.
- I would consider an adequate response to the health care needs of DSRS workers would be access to a DVA Gold Card to cover all medical and pharmaceutical needs. The work performed was indeed part of the defence of our nation, and since the workers were subject to chemical exposure which leads to long term health issues as a result of this work then we should be treated the same as other veterans with similar issues.
- In relation to the lump sum payment received under the ex gratia scheme I feel totally undervalued as a person. I was a 19 year old kid when employed in DSRS and I performed my work as I was ordered to. To later learn that people in positions of influence had knowledge that this work was harmful and neglected to rectify this situation is infuriating. To think that a payment of \$40,000 will nullify, or even sooth some of the pain caused from DSRS, is pathetic on behalf of the Australian Government. For a 19 year old boy to be exposed to life altering chemicals which have significant health effects is indeed irresponsible on the behalf of RAAF leadership of the day. Now I am expected to continue down the path of my life content with a one off payment of \$40,000, unsure what the future holds for me, all due to the ignorance of senior people in the defence force

at that time who had the knowledge that harm was being done to people under their responsibility and chose to do nothing. I ask if you or your child had been exposed in this manner would you be happy with this payment. I can trip over in a shopping centre and receive more compensation than this, it's pathetic to say the least.

I put forward this submission to the Defence and Trade's Inquiry into RAAF F-111 Deseal-Reseal workers and their families.

Andrew Morrell

24/6/2008