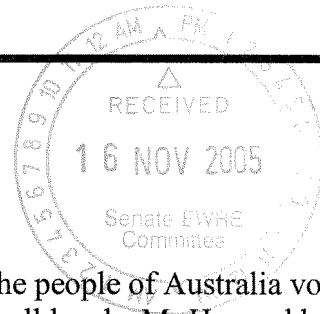


Jurjevic, Dijana (SEN)

From: Ruth O'Neill [oneillrj@ihug.com.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 16 November 2005 5:53 PM
To: EET, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Serious considerations



I would like to remind the senate they are only in their positions because the people of Australia voted them in. We had faith that you would protect our country against exploitation at all levels. Mr Howard has the comfort of knowing retirement is his next option when he loses power. But many of the other parliamentarians are still quite young and would like to be active in politics for another 25 years or more. By turning the desert region into a nuclear waste dump you will be betraying not only your voters but the wildlife and natural balance of our beautiful vast land. I spent my childhood in the desert and it is the most beautiful place to be. Its serene, seemingly deserted, but in fact, teeming with life. With creatures that have been able to survive the harshest of climates, life that will mutate under the presence of radioactive material. I have studied Science at a tertiary level and believe I am qualified to have an informed opinion about radioactive material. By building a dump in Australia we invite the waste from the entire globe and we will get it. The devastation of the Maralinga testing at Woomera is evidence of the catastrophic impact the unleashed nuclear industry can have on us. So many of my friends parents have died from cancer, even my school friends when they were younger than 40 years have died of cancer. My own mother passed away 8 years ago in the agony that cancer brings. She was the youngest of her siblings yet they are all still alive and have not had the disease. In fact, genetic testing has shown we do not have the genetic form of cancer in our family. So I ask myself where did she get the disease. My main conclusion is from drinking the rainwater when we lived at Woomera. Or perhaps it was from walking in the dirt around us. Who will say, all the medical records from the Woomera Hospital are missing, the records including those from when my sister and I lost our hair. It just fell out in clumps. No explanation, the doctor said he thought we caught something off the cat. Great cover up for radiation sickness. In my opinion the people of Central Australia have suffered enough from the excessive use of nuclear material. We don't want anymore here. There is no adequate compensation claim for any of us adult children and we have not pursued it. But I am sure if we did we would have a case. If we are treated with such disregard in our suffering due to decisions made from thousands of miles away in Canberra how are we expected to not take the government to court for the radiation sickness. How many of us are there? That is something the senate needs to consider seriously. We are real people out here just like you. How would you like to have the dump next to your town? I think Australia would be well served to shut down its uranium mines and seek healthy sensible alternatives. There is no need for us to be used like we are. In SA we live in fairly low economic conditions yet the mining company is making a fortune out of the lands here. Why are the people here living in squalor and when so few have so much, there is a great social injustice at work. I hope you can find your humanity and consider future generations in a practical manner and refuse to encourage the use of an element with a half life beyond a million generations of Australians. Sincerely Ruth O'Neill
