

Att: Standing Committee On Foreign Affairs,
Defence And Trade Inquiry into the Australian Participants in British Nuclear
Tests (Treatment) Bill 2006

Dear Standing Committee,

I fully support the contents of the letter from Ric Johnstone, the National
President of the Australian Nuclear Veterans Association,
which state that military nuclear tests participants (Nuclear Veterans) should be
allowed full qualifying service under the Veterans
entitlement Act. or at the very least, immediate full implementation of the Clarke
Committee's Recommendations.

Yours sincerely,
Pat Mackle

*It is the opinion of the Australian Nuclear Veterans Association that the
provisions of the Australian Participants in British Nuclear Weapons Tests
(Treatment) Bill 2006 do not go far enough in extending adequate compensation
coverage and support to Australian Tests Participants (Nuclear Veterans) of the
British Nuclear weapons Tests in Australia.*

*It is our sincere opinion that full coverage under the Veterans Entitlement
Act should be extended to all of those military personnel who are bona fide
British Nuclear Weapons Tests participants and whose names appear in the
Government's nominal roll, and to those civilians who were fully employed by
the Federal Government and were present during the actual tests or may have
been involved in the cleanup period after the actual tests.*

*The general difference between Military and Civilian participants is that
civilian participants were only involved if they wanted to be and earned
extremely high wages and bonuses, they could leave at any time that
conditions were not to their liking.*

*Military personnel on the other hand were there because they were ordered to
be there and had no say in the matter; they were all forced to sign the
Secrecy Act. And they came under military law as well as civilian law.*

*Most of the civilians whose names appear on the nominal roll had left the
test site before any tests were carried out and were put on the nominal roll
purely to water down any tests or studies that would follow.*

*It is our opinion that military nuclear tests participants (Nuclear
Veterans) should be allowed full qualifying service under the Veterans
entitlement Act. or at the very least, immediate full implementation of the
Clarke Committee's Recommendations.*



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