

**Australian Flying Corps and
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL COUNCIL INC.**

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Dr Kathleen Dermody
Committee Secretary
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Dr Dermody,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, on the Bills to provide non-liability cancer treatment for eligible Australian participants in the British nuclear tests conducted in Australia in the 1950s and 1960s. The RAAF Association has a keen interest in the deliberations of the Nuclear Tests' Consultative Forum and is pleased that the Bill provides free treatment of cancer for participants in the nuclear tests.

The RAAF Association selected Dr Jack Lonergan as its representative on the Forum because of his scientific background and because he would be able to provide an independent assessment of the scientific study to the Association. As the study progressed, Dr Lonergan became critical of its lack of scientific rigour. That element of concern forms the basis for this submission.

Dr Lonergan advises that the study report is seriously deficient in that it does not define how the estimated radiation dosage levels were derived. The estimates are guesses without supporting evidence. Unfortunately, the report then draws conclusions that accept the estimates as fact.

Despite the RAAF Association's misgivings regarding the scientific study, we applaud the move by the Government to provide non-liability treatment to Australian nuclear veterans.

Yours faithfully,

Roxley McLennan
Air Vice-Marshal
National President