

Ian Fraser

Compensation and Rehabilitation for Veterans Submission.

Introduction:

I served this country for 20 years in the RAAF as an Aircraft Technician. I worked in the F111 Deseal Reseal Program. To say I have seen the worst of the system used to look after our Veterans would be an understatement.

Some of my peers committed suicide because of how DVA treated them. Sadly its not just my peers who have taken their own lives. Its all to common in the Defence community.

1. Reference: Redevelopment of facilities at RAAF Base Amberley BRISBANE Tuesday, 19 May 1998 OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

The system is failing our servicemen, servicewomen and Veterans what is the root cause of that failure? There is a chapter in the above refence that sums it up in the most perfect way.

Group Capt. Sargeant—*That is quite correct. The entire aircraft goes into the deseal/reseal facility and we have to get right into the actual tank itself. In the old days, we did have to remove the sealant. What we now use is a spray on sealant. So rather than having to go through and remove all the old sealant, we can actually spray over the existing. That is a new technique we are using, but as a result of that, whilst productivity improves, it also brings with it **greater lethality** and so forth of the spray on sealant.*

This is where the real cause of the problems are. This Cannon Fodder attitude of Politicians and Military leadership. Here we have a Group Captain telling a room full of leaders that the have introduced a maintenance process that **“brings with it greater lethality”**.

The absolute tragedy here is that not one single person in that room asked the Group Captain to qualify that statement. The previous F111 Deseal Reseal Programs were lethal to a good number of those who worked on the programs and here we have a more lethal process being introduced. Note that this is date 2 years before the issues of the F111 Deseal Reseal program became public.

<https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/medical-services-and-conditions/f-111-fuel-tank-maintenance>

The above link contains a great deal of history from a Government point of view sadly it lack the real truth about how the F111 Deseal Reseal Victims were treated.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jfadt/deseal_reseal/report.htm

This Inquiry I fought for many years. The poor performance of DVA was highlighted in this inquiry yet nothing changed after this DVA continued on its merry way acting like a doggy insurance company rejecting claims and putting victims through hell.

Someone needs to take the time to look at this inquiry and see the report produced by the Ombudsman. Yet DVA was not made to answer for its failings so the poor pattern of behaviour continued.

So here we have another body looking into how we treat our Veterans. I am sorry but on past performance what we have here is another waste of tax payers dollars that will achieve zero outcomes for victims.

If the F111 Deseal Reseal case wasn't enough to effect any real change is this exercise wont either. Simply because those in power simply don't care about the Veterans or current serving personnel as demonstrated by my opening comments.

Our Families:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jfadt/deseal_reseal/subs.htm

At the bottom of this page in the Exhibits area you will find this report.

1. [Study by Leonie Coxon into Psychological Functioning of DSRS spouses \(PDF 695KB\)](#)

This report was completed and then withheld from the F111 Deseal Reseal Victims. I raised the existence of this report with the inquiry Chair who compelled DVA to release it. How do the Government treat the family of Veterans? Badly!

This report is hard to read it tells a tragic story of suffering. However nothing was ever done with this report. Why?

The F111 Deseal Reseal victims were promised a health study for their children this never happened.

Out of the Military board of inquiry there were 53 recommendations. Get someone to look into how many were actually implemented.

The same can be said for the "Inquiry into RAAF F-111 Deseal-Reseal workers and their families" Someone should follow this up as well.

If this body is serious about putting in place real change then you need to start with the mistakes of the past.

Ian Fraser