

Submission to People's Inquiry – 111

Exposure: lived in spray zone

Samantha Hardisty

Oral testimony transcription only

End

Submission to People's Inquiry – 112

Exposure: lived in spray zone (hot spot)

Jackie Harvey

Oral testimony transcription only

End

Submission to People's Inquiry – 113

Exposure: lived in spray zone (hot spot)

Elva Burkett

Oral testimony transcription only

End

Submission to People's Inquiry – 114

Exposure: lived in extended hot spot zone

Oral testimony transcription only

End

Submission to People's Inquiry – 115

Exposure: lived in spray zone

Annysha Cowlshaw

Oral testimony transcription only

End

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Submission to People's Inquiry – 116

Exposure: lived in spray zone

Lesley

Oral testimony transcription only - see 60 for written submission

End

Submission to People's Inquiry – 117

Exposure: lived in spray zone (hot spot)

Sandie MacKay

Oral testimony transcription only – see 48 for family written submission

End

Submission to People's Inquiry – 118 (see also submission 76)**Exposure: worked in spray zone****Karen****Oral testimony: Yes***[Note: Documentary and photographic evidence that was tabled for the Commissioners as part of Karen's hearing will be appended to her oral transcription for context]***Introduction: 12.03.06**

Ron and I have gone through our notes together and both feel very sad remembering the hopelessness of the situation at the time. We also feel extremely grateful Ron is almost free of the tormenting skin problems he experienced at its worst for 18 months. Ron continues to work as a Motor Mechanic without medication. This experience has certainly changed our lives; Ron has not regained the energy level he had for sport and fitness, though he tries. I continue to work full time; Ron has not gone back into business for himself as it seems just too difficult.

PS Just finished putting this together, and I just feel like crying and probably will. I can imagine many will not be able to do this – as I am doing it for Ron, I think he would have found it a bit much.

Karen

Attached Notes

1. **“One year after sprays”**
2. **Details of action and meds**

Karen – submission 118

Appendix 1

“One year after sprays”

22nd November 2003

Today is a very sad day for Ron and his family. After working in the trade as a Motor Mechanic for 35 years and working from his home at his own business for approx 20 years, today he is forced to close the doors.

This has come about from simply going about his day as per normal. Beginning the day with a 45 minute walk around his local area, then continuing to work on a client's car in his driveway. This was when one year ago he came in contact with the apple Moth spray that was being sprayed over West Auckland to irradiate the unwanted moth. Sadly for some this spray has caused terrible effects on them, Ron is one of these people.

Three days after the spraying Ron developed a rash on his hands and the back part of his body that was exposed. He was wearing shorts and a singlet, shoes and socks. The back of his neck, his ears, and the back of his legs, above his socks and below his shorts, his hands and forearms were affected. We expected this rash to go away after a few days, but it was not to be. It became quite bad so we sought medical help. The rash was beginning to change into blisters, causing a lot of discomfort and itchiness. This was the beginning of what has become a nightmare for Ron and his family.

This happened around the end of October, we had planned a holiday for three weeks in the Bay of Plenty, and had high hopes that the change of environment would be beneficial to the horrible skin complaint that was now severe and a great concern to all. This proved to be unsuccessful.

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From the first Doctor's visit a few days after he was in contact with the Apple Moth Spray, Ron was on strong medication of steroids and antibiotics, with only a few days in between courses. Three days after he stopped the medication the rash would be back in full force, with the blisters turning infected thus needing more and more antibiotics. This has been an ongoing problem for just over a year now, and for us has had huge consequences. Ron has physically suffered a lot of pain and tormenting itchiness, he has also suffered emotionally with his physical appearance his hands look bright red with lumps all over them, and has had to wear cotton gloves underneath rubber gloves at all times during work. He cannot even wash the dishes any longer as a little bump causes his hands to bleed. He has suffered financially with the expense of the different medications that he has had to use to no avail. Also the time he has had to take off work because of the state of his skin or visiting Doctors or Specialists.

He can no longer play physically with his fourteen year old son, basketball or just fooling around, as the skin on his hands is so thin now they bleed so easily. He can no longer go to the beach, or expose his skin to the sun at all. He has been swimming for fitness and stress release, up until last week but the cracks and blisters are so raw that he is concerned about infection so this also appears to be coming to an end, which I know will be extremely disappointing to him.

It has been heart breaking, watching him over the last year bravely persevering with his business, which has now ended. This had left him in debt to the Tax Department, ACC, owing GST, and an outstanding bill with our accountant. We have been doing our best over the last year with the hope of Ron's skin complaint coming right and then being able to get our finances into order, this has not happened.

Karen – submission 118
Appendix 2
Details of action and meds

Late October early November 2002, while walking, Ron noticed a MAF plane used for spraying the Apple Moth. Three days later Ron had broken out in a blistering rash on all exposed areas, above his shirt collar at the neck and ears, below shirt cuffs in his hands, below his shorts and above his socks at the back of both legs.

2.12.02 was Ron's first Doctor's visit for this; he visited Dr [...], Ron's GP. The rash was described as an allergic reaction and was prescribed Prednisone, antihistamine and emulsifying ointment. Three days after completing the medications the rash returned fully. The doctor prescribed another course of Prednisone, antihistamines and antibiotics.

15.12.02 to 24.12.02 AerAqua, on behalf of MAF referred Ron to a MAF doctor to be examined for their own information, no medication was prescribed. The rash had abated slightly, but was still visible on hands forearms and calves.

6.1.03 through to 26.1.03 during a three-week holiday it was necessary for Ron to contact his GP twice for advice. The advice given was to apply Locoid continually and apply in the evening and wear gloves to bed.

4.2.03 [...] from AerAqua referred Ron to dermatologist Dr Nicholas Birchall, after a quick examination consisting mostly Dr Birchall reading a referral letter from the [MAF] doctor, and taking approximately 10 seconds to look at Ron's hands only, he prescribed ointment which proved to be useless, he also said he would arrange Patch Testing.

14.3.03 spraying was being done by a Fokker, by that evening Ron's was very visible, he showed his GP.

11.4.03 Ron wrote to Dr Kelly at AerAqua, asking her to authorise the release of his medical notes from the [MAF] doctor, for his personal record.

12.4.03 His GP emailed Dr Kelly at AerAqua requesting funding for allergy testing.

1.7.03 Ron phoned another [MAF] doctor at AerAqua to enquire of any progress re the Patch Testing, The MAF doctor suggested Ron phone her back in one month. Ron phoned her the following month, no progress. He phoned each month to follow but she has always been unavailable to talk to. Ron continued to pursue the Patch Testing and had good liaison with Nurse [...]. This nurse informed Ron that Patch Testing had been approved but didn't know when they would do it. Over this period of time Ron has had several doctor's visits relating to the allergic contact dermatitis. Because Ron was dissatisfied with the result of his visit with Dr Nicholas Birchall, i.e. medication that didn't work, and nil progress on Patch testing, he requested from AerAqua, a referral to a dermatologist neutral to MAF. He got an appointment with Dr Kevin McKerrow. Dr McKerrow prescribed stronger steroid ointment and informed Ron that if he wanted a diagnosis that everyone would respect, he would need to see Dr Deborah Greig.

4.11.03 Ron gained an appointment with Dr Greig. Unlike doctor's Birchall and McKerrows fifteen-minute consultations, Dr Greig saw Ron for well over an hour, and gave him a thorough examination and noted all details of his complete working history. Dr Greig told Ron that in her opinion he had allergic contact dermatitis that would have stemmed from the original allergic reaction in October 2002, but still needed Patch Testing to all possible allergens in his work environment, as well as Patch Testing for Foray 48B Painted Apple Moth spray, which MAF have declined to do, because they are going to get their own dermatologist Dr Nicholas Birchall to carry out testing for Foray 48B only. Dr Greig informed Ron that this skin complaint was a disease that he would probably have for the rest of his life, and he would need to learn to manage it.

Because the dermatitis on Ron's hands and forearms has aggressively flared up on the 1.12.03, his GP has prescribed a strong course of Prednisone, antibiotics and antihistamine. Patch Testing will need to be set back at least a month from the time he completes the course of medications, as they would compromise the patch testing results. We have also been informed by AerAqua that patch testing is now delayed until some time in 2004.

Ron's GP has submitted an ACC claim. ACC have informed Ron that this will take two months to process and they may well decline the claim. Ron was advised by ACC in the interim to apply to WINZ for a sickness benefit. WINZ processed Ron and said he was not eligible for a sickness benefit or mortgage supplement, but will give him a disability allowance of \$4.51 cents per week.

Ron's business has run at a profit for twenty plus years, but since being sprayed by the Painted Apple Moth spray has run at a loss requiring him to close his business down. Because ACC will calculate any compensation against his last years income, a percentage payment against the loss is less than nil, making the ACC claim of no value.

So in conclusion it's evident that Ron being sprayed with the Painted Apple Moth spray, has had a huge negative impact on Ron and his family, with the future prospects not looking bright. Ron's wife Karen works at a Medical Centre thirty hours per week and is pursuing full time work to support Ron and the family in this situation. This has caused a lot of stress and financial concern.

Our immediate financial concerns are GST, Income Tax, ACC premiums, Accountants Fees and Overdraft and Visa Card debt. We have battled this pretty much alone for over a year now, and bring this to our Mayor, Bob Harvey with the hope of help and support. AerAqua has paid \$60.00 for each spray to cover relocation costs. They have also paid all Specialist fees and minimal medical costs.

End

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Submission to People's Inquiry – 119 – see also submission 82

Exposure: lived in extended hot spot zone

Paul Ketko

Oral testimony: Yes

(Written submission is copy of a letter to Max Wilde Manager of Field Services Waitakere City)

Max Wilde, Manager of Field Services
Waitakere City Council, Private Bag 93109, Henderson

05 February 2003

Dear Mr Wilde

I would like to register a formal complaint about the aerial spraying currently occurring at regular intervals in West Auckland, North Shore and Auckland City. Although my family and I live about 200 metres outside the direct spray zone, our property is very much in the drift zone, inside the vegetation zone and directly under the flight path of the plane as it turns back for its next run.

Being unsure of the potential dangers of the spray cocktail, we have grudgingly let our usually abundant vegetable garden go to ruin this season; this has cost implications with respect to the extra vegetables we need to purchase.

As the sun rises each week day morning I choose to meditate before driving to work in Auckland City. Low flying aircraft over our home disturb my meditation, quite smothering the experience on spray days. I rely on my meditation practise as contributing to my well-being.

Almost without fail I am then subjected to one or more dousings on my drive to work. The residue is particularly difficult to remove from my car. Although MAF says the spray is water soluble and will just rinse off, they ignore, in this advice, the fact that, by definition, a spray day is usually a sunny day upon which such residue hardens quickly. It seems to me unwise to stop my car on the North Western motorway to quickly wash off my car. (Furthermore, I tend not to carry sufficient water in my vehicle for this to be remotely feasible.)

As of the last round of spraying, my partner and four year old daughter are now evacuated on spray days as a consequence of both having experienced various symptoms related to this regular aerial poisoning. While their 4am courtesy call from Aer'Aqua is welcomed in one respect it is loathed by me for waking me even earlier than I already rise (5:25am – not long enough to get back to sleep). The impact on my daughter's health is of great concern to me. I believe that chemical toxicity is generally measured in relation to an adult male weighing at least 70kgs. My daughter is more like 15kgs and surely, therefore, much more vulnerable than reckoned by MAF, Aer'Aqua, ERMA or the Government. My partner (~55kgs) has always been chemical sensitive and now develops eczema, a wheeze, itchy eyes and high levels of stress during and after each spray.

While, superficially, I am lucky to be free from adverse physical health impacts as a result of the spray, I have grave concerns about the inevitable toxic-chemical build up each of us is subjected to throughout this whole ordeal.

Overall, we all find the whole thing very stressful. Regular aerial spraying of an urban population seems an absurdly excessive reaction to the problem of knocking out what MAF's own trapping is showing to be a very small population of caterpillars. If the forestry industry has the most to lose to this supposed pest, why are *they* not spraying their own crops if, and only if, the painted apple moth actually becomes a problem for them?

As a citizen and ratepayer of Waitakere City I urge the Council to take a more proactive stance to abate the nuisance caused by this nonsensical method of pest control.

Yours sincerely
Paul Ketko

End

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Submission to People's Inquiry – 120
Exposure: lived and worked in spray zone
Robert Harvey
Oral testimony transcription only

End

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Submission to People's Inquiry – 121

Exposure: lived in spray zone

Oral testimony: No

Firstly I wish to congratulate you on your ongoing persistence in fighting the “Painted Apple-Moth Spray”. I am so pleased that you are still putting so much energy into making sure that the “truth” is brought to public attention. I applaud you.

I would love to really help out, but unfortunately I am not well enough. I was involved in the early days, but got too exhausted and I was also in the process of applying for Residency. I got knocked back for no obvious reason. I wonder if it was because I was part of the protests at the time? I do have Residency now and am in the process of going for Citizenship. I do not want to jeopardize this and so cannot be seen to be part of this campaign.

Many New Zealanders, I know, think that I am being paranoid – I have enough evidence of the lengths that the Government and their agencies will go to to stop people speaking up. In England the simple people who were trying to stop motorways being built and ancient trees being chopped down had their phones tapped, had criminal charges and all sorts of made-up histories used against them. Luckily they were resilient. I am not. My health is impaired and I believe that most of that is to do with the Painted Apple Moth spraying.

I have lived in the spray zone since it started in Glen Eden and then Swanson. I moved out to Swanson to get away from it, and the zone's expanded and I ended up being right in the middle of it. First of all I relocated myself each time (under a lot of stress) and then finally got relocated by MAF. (Still a lot of stress).

There were many times I got caught in the Spray i.e. when I wasn't told about it, even though I had asked quite clearly and was on the “affected” list:

I did not write down dates and can't be specific but I do know that the spray was not always the same.

One time – I left the area and followed MAF's instructions – waited for 4 hours after finishing (I left it even longer – 6 hours) returned home and opened the windows, went off again for 2 hours and returned home. After 20 minutes the pain in my nose was excruciating, I had a headache, a sore throat and finally couldn't breathe properly (like asthma). I have never had any of these sort of complaints with anything else, ever. (I never get headaches, and have never had trouble breathing. I practise yoga (and breathing exercises), I am (or was) exceptionally fit and healthy. I don't smoke or drink (ever!) and I eat very healthily. I left the area again after this episode and a few days later developed swollen abdomen and flatulence and difficulty digesting.

There were a couple of times when I returned to the area shortly after the spraying finished, and once when I was caught in it, when I had no extreme physical effects and there was no strong smell either. My neighbours noticed the same thing.

Sometimes the smell was very strong and had an immediate effect on the nose and throat etc, and other times when there was no smell and no obvious immediate strong effect.

Basically the spraying programme took over my life. I ended up spending a lot my savings as I could claim no benefits in this country at the time and I could not work as I could never plan anything. As a self-employed person trying to set up a new life here – this was devastating to me and completely detrimental to my work.

It still is!

Right from the outset (spraying Waikumete Cemetery) I was aware of problems with my intestines and with fatigue. I was in Glen Eden. This increased when I was living in the area (Swanson). I went to England for four months (June – October 2003). My health was much improved. My energy levels rose enormously and my swollen abdomen and flatulence problems disappeared. There was some spraying when I returned and

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my health has deteriorated since then. Drastically. I have been on Sickness Benefit now for 9 months, have spent a small fortune on medical expenses and yet I still have abdominal (intestinal) problems and chronic fatigue.

I am not aware of any way of “proving” that the Painted Apple Moth spray was largely responsible for my condition (and my son also!). All I know is that I am very in touch with my body and the symptoms that came on immediately were unmistakable. Also, I was not expecting any reaction – thought we were clear – especially that first time!

Even if the health problems were not enough our lives were severely disrupted. We were woken at 5am often and I could not have stayed in the zone even if I did not get sick. The low flying aircraft were so low and noisy that I could not speak on the phone or even get on with anything normal as the noise was too stressful to my ears and nerves.

Most of the time, the smell was unbearable and I could not tolerate the assault on my senses.

I had my choices taken away from me on all levels. I had believed that we had a right to know what the ingredients are in anything. I believe this to be a fundamental violation of human rights.

I hope this is of help. I cannot put my name to it for fear of sabotaging my citizenship prospects. You are welcome to use any of this letter to read out, or add to your campaign in any way.

I wish you all the luck, and energy and support that it's possible to have.

You are doing a great job.

.... And may you be protected from all sabotage from all outside and inside agents.

(Edited to preserve identity)

End

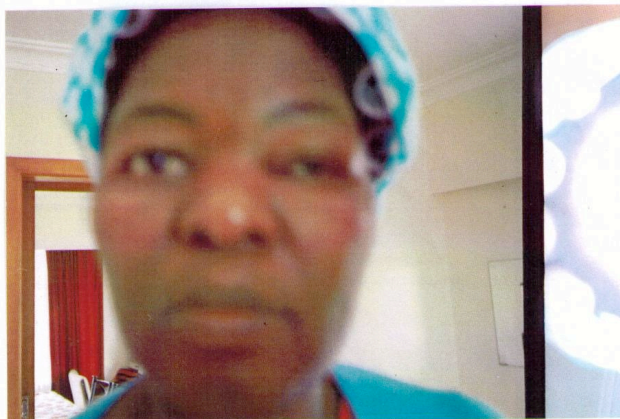
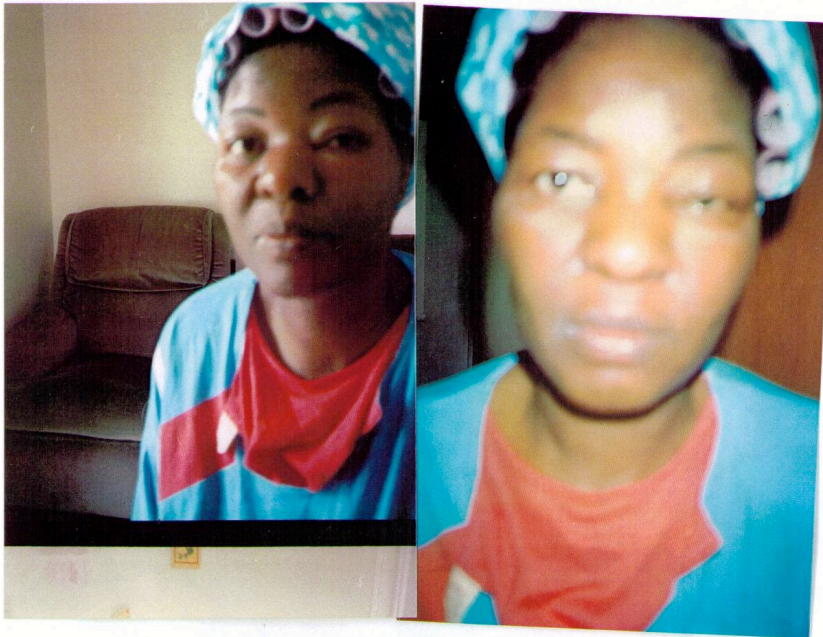
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Submission to People's Inquiry – 122**Exposure: lived in extended spray zone****Charity Kupf****Oral testimony: No**

Submission is two letters of correspondence leading up to the inquiry.

1. Reference is made to your inquiry about the spraying of 2003, I am one of the many people affected. My body was very itchy. My face was the most badly affected. It was all swollen and I had to go and see a doctor for the swelling to subside. My husband took some pictures of my face during that time and the pictures are available on request. It was a really difficult time for me because I was confined to my house every time they were doing the aerial sprays.

2. As I promised you last time when we spoke, attached are the photos that were taken by my husband during the aerial spraying. I would also like to add that ever since the spraying, when my skin itches and I scratch, that part swells and it turns red. This never used to happen before.



End

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Submission to People's Inquiry – 123

Exposure: lived in spray zone (hot spot)

Sam - (see family testimony 48)

Oral testimony transcription only

End

Submission to People's Inquiry – 124

Exposure: lived in spray zone (hot spot)

Jo - (see family testimony 48)

Oral testimony transcription only

End

Submission to People's Inquiry – 125

Exposure: worked in spray zone

Warahi H Paki

Oral testimony

(WRITTEN CONSENT NOT YET GIVEN)

End
