

Submission to People's Inquiry – No 11**Exposure: lived and worked in spray area****Kaye 58 yrs (now)****Oral testimony: No**

To whom it may concern, this is my testimony for the people's inquiry into the use of the spray for the painted apple moth.

I first started to notice I was getting constantly sick in May 2002 and started to keep a record of how I felt. I had been ill for quite some time, with bad headaches, feeling sick and my balance going funny, but thought I was getting sinus infections. I kept going to my doctor and getting antibiotics. These did absolutely no good.

By May 2002 I was getting a runny nose, which was dripping down my throat, sinus pain between the middle of my eyes and felt sick most of the day. I was living on pain killers and sinus tablets. One day after they had been aerial spraying, I was in my garden and touched some plants, which brushed up my arm. Within minutes I had come up in a red and itchy rash.

The plane used to fly right over the roof of my house and then right across the building I work in, in Henderson. Every time they sprayed I would get a blood nose, and then the other symptoms would start up again, (if they had receded from the last time)

By June 2002 I was getting worse with terrible dizzy spells, really bad headaches in my right eye (like a migraine) and felt so sick I could barely eat. I was having to take days off work as I could barely stand up for the pain and the giddiness. I was spending all day in bed sleeping.

By the middle of June 2002 I was very sick. The pain in my right eye was unbearable even the bumps in the back of my head hurt, my nose was constantly running, and now I was vomiting. I could not stand up for long and had pain down both sides of my neck and in my collarbone. I was not at work very much.

By 2004 I was getting the feeling that my head was stuffed full of cotton wool and could not concentrate at all. It was like my brain told me to do everything back to front and I kept forgetting things and doing all my work all wrong. I am in the freight forwarding business and kept sending containers to the wrong wharves, then having to pay money to get them sent to the right wharf, I was creating havoc. At the time of doing something, I thought it was right. I started to knit a jumper for my mother-in-law, and did the front with a raglan sleeve and the back with a set in sleeve. I also did a great deal of a cross stitch pattern of a tiger and did not notice I had done one side of his face twice, my husband pointed this out. It looked okay to me. I also had no energy and even fell asleep in my chair at work – constantly feeling like I was drugged.

I have been to the doctor who would send me for blood tests, to be told they couldn't find anything wrong.

I even wrote to Chris Carter m.p. who put me onto someone else, who just told me that there was nothing wrong with me to do with the spray and to go to my doctor, as I was probably sick from something else. I think I have been tested for just about everything and no results.

To this day I am still not well, although some of the symptoms have receded. I still get a lot of headaches, with pains in my neck and back muscles, and sometimes the giddiness, also the drugged feeling. Some days I feel not too bad and others it takes me all my time to keep going. I still find I have a lack of concentration sometimes and do accounts wrong at work and don't notice I have done it. I think my concentration span has narrowed.

My only hope is that the spray effects will one day disappear and I can lead a more normal life instead off feeling half here most of the time.

I have a lot of things I want to do and four grandchildren I want to enjoy and not feel like I have to push myself because I feel so lousy.

Thank you

Supplementary Addendums (2) to this submission

1. Letter from the Hon Pete Hodgson, Associate Minister of Health – 11th March 2005.

Dear Mrs

Thank you for your email of 27 January 2005 about the Painted Apple Moth spray (Foray 48B). I am replying to on behalf of Hon Jim Sutton, Minister for Biosecurity, as the issues you raise fall within my portfolio of responsibilities.

I was sorry to read about the health problems you have been experiencing, and I realise that these must be very distressing for you. I appreciate that you consider these problems to be a direct result of exposure to the Foray 48 spray. However, I am advised it is possible your symptoms may be related to another cause.

Foray 48B has been used in aerial operations over urban populations in Canada, the United States of America, Europe and Auckland. Studies of human health carried out alongside the aerial treatment programmes have shown no patterns of long-term adverse health effects associated with use of Foray 48B. Please be assured that the Government would not allow the use of this product over populated areas if it believed there would be any significant health effects associated with its use.

Health experts assessed the product and its components prior to its use against the Painted Apple Moth. The Public Health Protection Service of the Auckland District Health Board (DHB) carried out a full health risk assessment for the spraying programme. This included analysis of a two-year health monitoring programme following the use of Foray 48B for the White Spotted Tussock Moth programme. The risk assessment recommended the provision of a programme to assess those who considered that the Btk product (Foray 48B) being used in the programme was affecting their health. The health service was established to provide advice and practical support for people who were concerned about their health. This service operated until 22 Feb 2004.

If you have concerns for your health, you should contact your own general practitioner (GP) who will, if necessary, advise the Medical Officer of Health, whose job it is to investigate community health concerns.

Thank you for writing to me. I trust this has clarified the issues you have raised and I hope you are now in better health.

Yours sincerely
Hon Pete Hodgson
Associate Minister of Health

2. 2006 Personal update & additional information

A few months after the spraying began, I noticed the skin around the edge of my dog's ears had gone all crusty. She often went out under our trees rootling around. I put some hydrocortisone cream on them for a couple of days and it cleared up. I stopped her from doing this after that.

Also my cat started bleeding from her private parts every time we got sprayed on, as the flight path was right over our house, so I kept her inside a lot after that. I also brushed against some trees just after spraying one day and came up in a big red rash down my arm.

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Our customs agent got dumped on one day walking down his drive as they were aerial spraying and got a bad eye infection and an ulcerated nose which were both painful and awful to look at.

I have been feeling bad for at least 15 months (maybe longer) now, thinking I had some sort of a virus that would not go away. I have thought about this a number of times, that the symptoms are almost identical to those I had during the spraying, except for two, which, one is not there and the other is of a lesser degree. I do not have the complete loss of brain control and the balance control is nowhere near as bad.

Apart from that I have all the other symptoms: I have a few clear days, then I get ulcers right down the back of my tongue, sore glands and earache all on one side which lasts for a day, then the next two days I feel like I am drugged and keep falling asleep, then I get sore muscles in my neck and back and the headaches start. My head hurts so bad I can't even touch my own scalp and it is only in certain places on my head.

On top of all this I get flu like symptoms without actually having a cold. My nose runs constantly, I sneeze and I have had my cough so long it is like an old friend. I do not smoke, or drink alcohol. Sometimes the muscles in my neck are so sore I can't turn my head at all. The headaches are only relieved by taking migraine tablets and even then sometimes these do not work.

During this time, I find it very difficult to work. Luckily working for a family business I can go home if I do not feel well, but this then puts a strain on other members to do my work.

These symptoms last for at least 8-9 weeks with no let up at all, making you feel like you would like to chop your head off, just to get some relief.

End

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Submission to People's Inquiry – No 12

Exposure: lived in spray area – home based for the duration

Sally Lewis

Oral testimony: Yes

18th January 2006 - To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Sally Lewis. I am 59 years old. I lived in the Painted Apple Moth aerial spray zone and have been severely affected by the spraying campaign.

From the first targeted spray in January 2002 I have experienced progressive, debilitating and prolonged allergic reactions to the pesticide used. This has consisted primarily of a severe and increasing exacerbation of what was a mild asthmatic condition before spraying commenced, and upon spraying an acute allergic skin reaction. In the following months of spraying I experienced further ongoing debilitating effects as detailed later.

As part of the health support service run by AerAqua (set up by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)), I had been relocated at their cost during aerial spraying since March 2002. Initially, this was for 48 hours after spraying, but subsequently, after intervention by my GP this was extended to seven days then ten days.

The clinical establishment of my condition is without doubt, and is well documented. At AerAqua's request and cost, I have been seen on several occasions by AerAqua nominated specialists who confirmed my condition as necessitating evacuation from the spray zone during spraying, and for a minimum of 48 hours after completion of the drop. This was accepted by AerAqua (not without difficulty, and not without what I consider unprofessional behaviour, in trying to *over-ride a specialist's opinion*) - and I was evacuated for these 48 hours on all spray days.

In November 2002 my General Practitioner informed Dr Kelly of AerAqua that I was now experiencing such exacerbation of symptoms from spray residue after I returned home that she 'strongly recommended' that I be evacuated for a week after spraying instead of only 48 hours. This was accepted, and AerAqua from then onwards paid for a week's accommodation for me outside the spray zone.

On March 6th 2003 I was very distressed and shocked to be told by my GP that my lung condition had now deteriorated to such a degree that she believed it was a permanent and disabling condition. I was referred, assessed and then put on an invalids benefit.

During the last nineteen months of spraying I have not only had to suffer the health consequences of the spray, but have been subjected to continuous harassment, lies and the ongoing debilitating battle with AerAqua to keep myself safe - and quite frankly - sane. This has at times caused me great distress and fear.

Whilst I have always been evacuated from the spray zone on all 'blanket' aerial sprays, I was not initially allowed relocation when MAF started doing additional weekly targeted hotspot sprays in my area at the end of 2002. Unfortunately I found out pretty rapidly that I experienced the same severe exacerbation of my condition after targeted sprays, and had to return to my GP for urgent medical treatment on several occasions.

I requested relocation during these targeted sprays, but after prolonged arguments about whether I was inside or outside their arbitrary and unmeasured target 'drift' zones, I was finally informed by AerAqua that they had to refuse my request anyway as they *'could not afford it'*.

As a result of this refusal of support on hotspot sprays - which was extremely distressing and frightening and forced me to evacuate at my own cost - I laid a complaint with the Health and Disability Commissioner. Whilst he was unable to investigate this because he ruled that *funding of a service* was not within his

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jurisdiction, he did accept that AerAqua did provide a health service and that my condition required that I be evacuated on targeted hotspot spraying days.

The continued harassment of having to attend further AerAqua 'reassessments' of my condition, (Dr F Kelly overriding my GP and their appointed Specialists decisions, paradoxically I have never been seen by her so how could she make judgment?)

And the continuing arguments (*and inspections,*) over my choice of relocation facilities, (*including having an interview with their psychiatrist - how demoralizing can one get*), also the monthly battles with AerAqua staff over mistakes in the duration of my relocation, had reduced me to a state of total exhaustion and despair.

I could no longer work. My life revolved around the spray days, living in and out of motels, baches (even tents and on stormy days), and only being able to live in my home for approximately one week out of every month. My house became more and more contaminated each and every time they sprayed; my home was no longer 'home' in any sense.

Lack of finances meant I could not afford to move house permanently as others have been able to do, and my medical expenses are up into the thousands, plus other costs for which I have never been reimbursed (phone charges from Motels, petrol costs etc).

The disruption to my life has been total - health, socially and otherwise. My relationship with my partner became exceptionally rocky as he always said I was never home for him as most times he would have to stay at home for the animals. We have now separated.

Until the advent of the aerial spraying for the Painted Apple Moth I have always done hard physical work, and have always been a fit, energetic, and self motivated person. (This included getting myself through a three year rehabilitation programme after a spinal injury in my thirties left me paralysed from the waist down).

Before returning to New Zealand in 1997 I had lived in Australia for 12 years where I was a State Emergency Training Officer and a Queensland National Parks & Wild Life Rescue Officer. I played tennis, squash, badminton, and raced 36 / 40 foot yachts most weekends.

I was still doing hard physical work up until a year before spraying started in 2002. I was an ASB Assistant Farm Manager at Mount Albert Grammar School - doing everything required, from assisting shearing, through repairing fences to milking cows. Everything that would keep the farm up and running! An accident there which damaged my back and aggravated my old spinal injury unfortunately put me out of that job and onto sickness benefit. In every other respect I was fit and well, able to care for my grandchildren with no difficulty, and totally unprepared for the spray-related problems that were to follow.

I have been a mild asthmatic with no provocation allergies, and the handful, of more severe episodes experienced over the years have usually been emotionally induced. Medication prior to spraying was simply one to three puffs a week if needed of a Ventolin inhaler, plus one tablet at night of Theophylline 175mg. As the spraying proceeded I got progressively worse, and am now a chronic asthmatic with a condition similar to emphysema.

My peak flow is now between 60 and 150 litres per minute - reduced from a previous normal of 300 to 400 and sometimes up to 500 litres per minute. It takes all my effort to walk to the letter box and back. Medication is now Nuelin, 300mg morning and night. Oxis turbuhaler - two puffs twice a day. Atrovent, Ventolin inhalers, when needed, Flixotide inhaler, plus two puffs three times a day, Neulin inhaler when needed. Nebuliser if my peak flow reading gets too low, continuing courses of antibiotics and 20mg Prednisone tablets a day.

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Apart from this disabling asthma, further health conditions appeared early on in the spraying. If I did not stay away for several days after the spray, the same effects would appear within ½ hour of coming back home. Severe asthma attacks with difficulty breathing, wheezing and persistent barking cough. Skin rash on all exposed skin, (diagnosed by a specialist as airborne eczematous, contact dermatitis, (photos are available). When AerAqua was rung regarding this, I was told by Dr F Kelly (without seeing the rash) it would wash off in a shower or I could obtain a saline solution to apply to the rash. Diarrhoea, oozing eyes, headache, dizziness and disorientation, bleeding nose.

I have now developed chronic fatigue. My joints constantly ache. I have problems with minor motor skills, and memory loss. (One dizzy episode in my garden in the early months resulted in a fall that tore a knee cartilage requiring reconstructive surgery and weeks on crutches). The diarrhoea (even after days away) had got progressively worse and I then had bleeding from the bowels. Last year I underwent an investigative colonoscopy for this which has eliminated cancer and all obvious causes for this condition. (The specialist at the local hospital who did the colonoscopy said he had seen a number of similar cases from out west).

I was once fit and well but now I am sick and disabled, and there is no doubt whatsoever in my mind that the aerial spraying has been the cause.

Everything I have struggled for, and everything I have spent creating over the years has been destroyed overnight so to speak. The spraying programme has gone beyond everything we expected and were promised. 6-8 sprays over one summer had then expanded to become nearly two years plus, and dozens of sprays (50 plus), with seemingly no end in sight.

Any semblance of normal life, let alone normal health has become an impossible dream. This spraying was not of my making. *I was given no choice in this matter. I was not asked if I would do this for my Country and I certainly did not give anyone my permission to be sprayed upon.* I feel as if I was used as a human experiment

Then to be treated by MAF and AerAqua as if I was some irritating nuisance that was simply getting in the way of them doing their job when things went wrong, instead of some compassion for circumstances beyond my control, this has destroyed any faith I had that anyone cared. I am one of many that have paid and are still paying the price for this eradication.

In September 2005 I was given a trip to Australia from my daughter only for my lungs to be affected by the air conditioning on the plane. On arrival in Brisbane I ended up in hospital in *I C U* with respiratory failure. For the next three and a half weeks I was on a ventilator, then put on a Bypap machine. After the ventilator was removed I was asked "*where did I get the chemical burns on my lungs from? And what was the chemical*"?

After coming off the ventilator I ended up with *I C Myopathy*. I could not walk, talk, lift up a Styrofoam cup. After a week of intensive physiotherapy learning how to, what is called transition from a wheelchair to a chair, I was then allowed to fly home with an assistant (at my expense) to continue rehabilitation as they do not reciprocate rehabilitation facilities for New Zealanders.

I then spent the next three months in Rehab Plus at Point Chevalier, Auckland learning how to walk, talk, eat etc and try and get my life back to some kind of normality.

I have been placed on a permanent disability pension, am taking prednisone on a permanent basis to keep my lungs functioning, I now have *COPD*, my asthma medication has increased and I have been medically advised to move to Australia as I probably would not survive another winter in New Zealand. Less than two months ago I was admitted to hospital for two weeks with another asthma attack.

This is what my life is like now, one continual battle for survival with no long term solutions. I always thought humans came before profits, how wrong I was.

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I hope I have done enough for my country now?

Thank you for your time. If you need a copy of doctor's letters, photos or documents related to this matter please don't hesitate to ask.

End

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Submission to People's Inquiry – No 13

Exposure: worked in spray area, lived in later extended spray zone.

Margaret Jessen

Oral testimony: No

Thank you for the information regarding the People's Inquiry on painted apple moth spraying. It is long overdue process. I wonder if it will have any effect on the powers that be!

As we live in a camper van and will not be available on these dates, I have written out my story. Will that be acceptable as any evidence of ill health. The only problem being is that no doctor I've seen will even consider my ill health is due to apple moth spray! I hardly ever visited a doctor before the spraying began.

Nothing in my world changed to cause my sinus condition except the spray.

Same address, same 8 acres of tree around our property, same dirt road. Same food, same friends, same activities.

I can only garden now with a mask on, and have had to give up working on other people's gardens, and only weed mine, with a mask on, for about half hour at a time or else I can't breathe!

Surely if nothing else has changed in ones life except the spraying it has to have been the spray that caused me to become super sensitive to all sorts of things, unknown to me before, eg paints, materials, pollen, grass's, soil, perfume, its on going.

My apple moth spray client no [...] Reference [...]

I was sprayed on 3 times while helping elderly friends weed their gardens. At:

River Park Crescent, Henderson.

Apple Wood Drive

Simpson Road, Ranui. (at this address worked on garden 1 hr after it was sprayed, Simpson Road again worked 1 hr after spray)

I developed acute sinusitis with 24hr cough and green mucus, with sore ears and breathing problems.

Before the apple moth spraying, the only time I ever had a sinus problem was around the Equinox windy season. One sinus tab a day for 4 days solved the complaint. After apple moth spraying I've lived on sinus medication and antibiotics to try and cure the problem. Today 23rd august 2005 I'm on a further course of antibiotics, sinus tablets, from my local Doctor at Ranui medical clinic. The complaint has never gone away since I was first sprayed. I have tried herbal remedies, aromatherapy, every known over the counter sinus medication. Nothing shifts the mucus or sore ears or sinus pain.

1. My main concern is the way the government has totally disregarded my complaint and every one elses complaints with their health. I was told I had "mass hysteria" by the Government [MAF] Dr and then the powers that be wondered why I never went back!
2. Why if whole areas health suffered due to the spray why did the Government not monitor all of us as to the long term effects of the spray. So in the future they could not make the same mistakes again.

Medical history

March 20th 2002

Ist visit to Dr F – Herne Bay, Auckland. Sinus congestion, coughing up green mucus 24hr day. Breathing problems. Extremely sore ears. Medication Romicin 300. chest xrays. Lungs found to be ok.

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April 11th 2002

Dr AV – respiratory physician, Mercy Specialist Centre, Auckland. Lung test. CT scan.

April 19th

CT scan – resulting in being passed on to Dr JB – ear, nose throat surgeon, Epsom.

May 5th

Dr AV - Cefachorin 250mg. Romicin 300. Metochonpramide 10mg. Losec. Again no improvement in condition.

May 21st

Dr JB ear, nose and throat specialist. Prednisone 20mg, Sporanax 100mg, 28ciproxin 25mg. strong reaction to ciproxin.

July 31st

Dr AV – sinus operation might help. Still no improvement in condition.

August 27th

Dr JB – 2nd nasal CT recommended did not think operation needed.

September 5th

CT scan revealed sinus congestion. Shifts from right nostril to left nostril. Operation would not help.

December 2nd

Government [MAF] Dr. Listen patiently for 15mins while I coughed and spluttered my medical problem at him. Then gently took my hand and looking me straight in the eye told me I had “mass hysteria.” Nothing wrong with me at all. Even though I'd filled his rubbish bin up with dirty green mucus filled tissues!

2003

All year I tried over the counter medication + herbal + aromatherapy.

December 2003

Back to my own Doctor for antibiotics – prednisone. Flixanase.

January 2004

Own doctor. Prednisone, Doxycycline hel Ta 100mg

February 2004

Seen by Govt Dr [Specialist]. Patch test for allergies who appeared very contemptuous. eg every other patient was walked up to, hand shaken and escorted by [the doctor] into his room. For myself he stood at his room door and beckoned me into his room by lifting his finger and beckoning me in. Gave me little information.

On the 3rd visit to this doctor I was informed I was allergic to colophony a substance in cosmetics. He probably felt safe saying cosmetics! Unbeknown to him I'm one of the populations only woman who does not put cosmetics on her face!! As I'd told him I was helping paint a house, he then said it was in the paint. Problem being I wear a face mask. And my sinus problem started in March 2002 not Feb 2004.

2004 – 2005

Live on antihistamines daily. Still have sore ears still cough up green mucus.

August 2005

Own doctor – another course antibiotics and antihistamines + nasal spray.

Please treat this information with respect, and honour the privacy of everyone who has had the courage to participate

End

Submission to People's Inquiry – No 14**Exposure: lived in spray area****Elizabeth Steele****Oral testimony: Yes**

Before the spraying began both my husband (Chris) and myself were not happy about being sprayed. But we believed that MAF were professionals, and would not put people in any danger. Chris would regularly swim in our pool, he would also wash down the house as we thought there was an excessive amount of spray being dropped. (One day they in fact sprayed the house three times).

Our garden that had been a haven for a pair of thrushes and a pair of blackbirds, also a good collection of other birds became a death zone. Both the thrushes were dead on the lawn one morning and I found one of the blackbirds dead behind a tree. All through the spraying there was no bird life to be seen, or insects for that matter. We were so cross that we went on the march to stop the spraying, if birds were dying then it was dangerous. We were ignored.

Later that year Chris began to complain that everything he ate tasted funny, and he became generally unwell. This was odd for him as he had never been ill in his life. After a great deal of persuasion we went to see the doctor.

They did a lot of tests and could not find anything wrong. But by the start of 2003, we had to go back. This time they found his kidney was huge. On further tests they found a tumour. Chris was taken into hospital and had his kidney removed. Later we heard that Chris had a cancer of the blood. Three months after this operation Chris deteriorated yet again.

He was referred to one of Auckland's top renal surgeons, Mr [...]. Chris was prepared to try anything. Mr [...] performed a huge nine-hour operation. After weeks of agony, Chris passed away in August.

After the funeral I contacted Mr [...] to thank him for his efforts, and asked him if he thought the spray was responsible, he replied it was possible. There had been no tests to prove effects on humans. He also said he had spent some time down in Hawkes Bay where they regularly spray and there seemed to be a huge amount of people developing this type of cancer there.

A few months later, still not over my grief I decided to contact MAF. They arranged for me to meet up with a so-called independent [MAF] doctor. I was ill prepared for this visit, as I have no medical knowledge. The conversation went completely over my head. I walked away feeling extremely angry. They were not the slightest bit interested, and there was no way that I could get to see anyone higher.

This woman even wrote to Mr [...]. I don't know what was said, but I later received a letter from him taking back some of our conversation.

My main reason for wanting to speak today is to ask how it is that this spraying was in my opinion a criminal act, people have been killed and maimed in a so called civilised country. How can this be ignored. If a person committed these atrocities they would be held accountable. What I want to ask is when do we get our day in court? Some one should be accountable.

Thank you for your time! Even though I feel nothing will come of this, at least I have said what I needed to say.

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My husband (Chris) and myself came to this country believing that we would be living in a democratic and environmentally run country. Our rights to breath clean air, and our rights to speak out were breached.

No MP was prepared to speak out on our behalf, and no specialist (Doctor or Nurse) dare speak out. What does this say about this country.

I hope my testimony can be used to see this never happens again. I also hope to be given a public apology. To lose the one you love and be ignored and treated as radical and stupid by ignorant people is the final straw.

Thanks for all your effort. I would have liked to participate more but I find myself financially having to start again to earn a living at sixty. (If Chris had been still alive we had a glowing future). Yet another cross to bear.

End

Submission to People's Inquiry – No 15**Exposure: lived in spray area****Oral testimony: Yes**

Prior to the spraying of Btk by MAF I used a Ventolin inhaler only. Once a year in winter I would have a chest infection for which I had antibiotics and prednisone. Apart from that I lived a normal fairly healthy life and no allergies.

When spraying started I notified MAF and was told they would phone me on spray days and to stay inside. I informed them I had 3 skylights in my unit that couldn't be closed off. One in toilet – one in bathroom and one in kitchen/laundry. I had to be confined to my bedroom but my unit was not free of spray.

MAF were useless. I wasn't asked to move by them and being a solo pensioner had nowhere to go. Some days MAF would ring in the afternoon and say spray had finished and I wasn't informed they had started. I am completely deaf in one ear and very little hearing without an aid and didn't always hear the planes coming over until too late.

My breathing was getting worse – had more visits to my doctor (who ignored what I said about the spray). Was put on preventers and nebuliser, and overnight stays in hospital. I've developed an allergy to many chemicals and powders and other smells in the air. Had to buy my own nebuliser and take it with me when I go away.

Its affected me to the point that I have to think about where I'm going. About the weather, any hills or slopes. I couldn't even walk the length of my driveway for mail – neighbours put it through my window! Can I use my nebuliser!

Our Government hasn't learnt anything from Agent Orange and Vietnam. We have no say, not even a public referendum! Doctors are unable to give out any increase in patients ...? during this 2 year spraying – the Government subsidises them so they remain mute!

The actual number of people affected by the spray has been a big cover up. Even the people loading this spray and using it wear protective clothing etc! all for the sake of a moth!

NZs border control should have taken care of this and sprayed all containers coming into this country and tackled the problem straight away instead of waiting 2 years to debate and discuss the issue while the moth multiplied and spread!!

After the spray stopped If I used my ventolin in a garage getting a WOF or having a fridge repaired someone would come up to me and say I have to use one of these during the spraying and after. These people were aged approx 25yrs to 35yrs. It didn't matter what age – the spray affected the very young thru to the aged. We can't all be psychosomatics.

End

Submission to People's Inquiry – No 17**Exposure: lived in spray zone****Ronda Macdonald****Oral testimony: Yes**

I strongly object to being aerial sprayed as I suffer from Crohn's disease. I avoid acid food but the spray must have been full of sugar which turned to acid because all my symptoms were magnified. My neck which was covered in red very painful lumps for weeks is still very sore at times. My hair came out in large handfuls I thought I would lose it all. It is only now growing thick again. I never had headaches or depression before the spraying but for three and a half years I have had sharp painful headaches and depression, I was almost suicidal at times. The pressure in my ears was so bad it felt like my head was in a vice. The most scaring thing there was no-one you could go to, Doctors did not want to know and the Health Department did not investigate. We were told it was all in our minds. One could write a book on the breakfasts they arranged for us on spray days they were a living hell. I have found it hard to understand how the Government could do this, and not care. There were many many people affected.

End

Submission to People's Inquiry – No 18**Exposure: lived in spray zone****Margaret B Jones****Oral testimony: Yes**

I am 84 years of age and we have lived on this property for 40 years. Our small house (then) was moved on to a bare unused (for many years) section – pure clay top soil.

For 33 years Penfolds Wines were our neighbours. I had several meetings with their Manager re spraying of their grapes. He assured me that spraying would not happen in an easterly wind, and he kept his word.

We have worked hard over the years to make the section productive. All trees were fruit and nut bearing while our four children were at home. Today, I rarely have to buy vegetables fruit or nuts. It is an ORGANIC garden.

I did not like the idea of the eradication programme using overhead spraying. I joined the group who were concerned also to voice our disapproval.

Soon after the “spraying” began I deliberately stayed outside in the garden. I am in what is considered to be a high risk area and we were sprayed many times. My eyes soon began to water my tongue became sore and my ears felt as though they were blocked.

When the plane disappeared I went inside, showered and lay down for half an hour. Soon my phone began to ring, and my friends were telling me their stories – similar to mine – except that they had not been directly exposed.

I have a tank so that before each spray programme began I had to change the pipes so that my rain water would not be “contaminated”. My fruit and nut trees had much less fruit after being sprayed because bees were almost non-existent. My broad beans produced very few flowers and no beans.

I sent a question to the painted apple moth headquarters and the Minister of Agriculture. If I wish to sell can I advertise my property as Organic since I am in the extra spray zone? Both replies were evasive!

End

Submission to People's Inquiry – No 19**Exposure: lived in spray zone****Oral testimony: No**

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this submission to formally lodge my concern over the health impacts and effects of aerial spraying pesticides over West Auckland.

I was living in Brisbane, Australia for the most part of 2002 (January to November) during which I believe saw the beginning of aerial spraying. I brought my two children back to New Zealand for a holiday over the festive season arriving November 12th 2002. As soon as we arrived home to my family home at the above address, both myself and my youngest child (a boy aged 22 months then) started to have breathing difficulties (waking in the night coughing, short of breath and unable to find relief). This soon turned into a chest infection for us both. Even once the chest infection had resided the asthmatic symptoms would continue to persist.

At first I didn't link this to aerial spraying. It wasn't until over the months that followed I began to notice that every time the spraying was taking place I was experiencing much the same symptoms. Until this time I have not been diagnosed as asthmatic, never suffered these types of symptoms in the past at all. My son, to this day will suffer shortness of breath when exercising. Something that is a major inconvenience for a nearly 5 year old. Neither of us use a regular preventative for our breathing difficulties but I have used flixotide a couple of times lasting a few months since arriving home. This seems to have helped me a great deal.

We never returned to Australia as I discovered I was pregnant with our third child instead we decided to move the family back to New Zealand. The aerial spraying was taking place over much of 2003 (during my entire pregnancy) and our third child was born July 27th 2003. Sadly, our baby was born with a rare medical condition called Osteogenesis Imperfecta (commonly known as Brittle Bone Disease). He has suffered over 30 broken bones in his short lifetime, and coincidentally, nearly 20 asthma attacks that have required hospitalization and oxygen.

Of course, I cannot prove that these things are the result of aerial spraying or even that they are related. But my true conviction is that it seems far too obvious to be ignored. I firmly believe that mine and my two son's breathing difficulties were the direct result of aerial spraying and I am dreading the idea of the government allowing this to happen again.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me. I do not wish to speak at the hearing but I may consider a video tape submission.

End

Submission to People's Inquiry – No 20**Exposure: lived/worked in spray zone****Louise Brabant****Oral testimony: No**

Re: the People's Inquiry

I am writing on behalf of our daughter Laura Brabant. Laura left Marist College at the end of 2002. She was undecided on her career choice and decided to work for a year. She turned 18 in February 2003 and got a job at the *Mad Butcher*, Great North Road, Pt Chevalier during the day and worked at the Crown Hotel in the same block of shops at night. Laura walked from (home) to Great North Road to work each morning. She worked really hard to earn money to go to University the next year. On several occasions she came home from work and said I got hit by that awful spray on my way to work.

Laura had always been a very healthy child with her only visit to hospital to have her tonsils out. At the end of 2003 Laura was very tired after working both jobs. She had been accepted to do Physiotherapy at Akoranga University starting February 2004.

Unfortunately on the 15th February the week before University started Laura got several lumps on her head and behind her ears. I straight away thought she had Glandular Fever, which is exactly what the doctor thought when he examined her the next day. Although she tested negatively for glandular fever the doctor was still convinced that was the problem. Laura was told to rest.

Being the determined person she was she started University on the 23rd of February. By the third week Laura's health had deteriorated to such an extent University was no longer an option. Her test results were getting worse and she was aching in all her joints. By the fifth week Laura could hardly walk around the house and the diagnosis finally came. Laura had SLE (Lupus) a disease of the immune system. She had serious kidney damage and arthritis in all her joints.

She was admitted to the Renal Unit at Auckland Hospital for treatment. Laura was told she would need six chemotherapy treatments a month apart plus she was prescribed Prednisone 50mg a day, plus numerous other medications.

Laura's whole life had turned upside down. The huge doses of medication made her feel very ill and she had to come to terms with the fact that she had a very serious disease for the rest of her life. Fortunately for Laura her treatment went very well and kidney specialist decided she would only require three chemo treatments instead of six. Laura is on a mild chemo drug and a lower dose of Prednisone for three years and hopefully the Lupus will not flare up over that period.

When Laura first got sick I had my suspicions that the spraying may be connected. In July this year I went to a seminar by two doctors about Immune Diseases. The doctors said Immune Diseases begin first when the immune system is run down and secondly when the immune system is poisoned. This convinced me that Laura being run down and her encounters with the spray triggered the Lupus off.

Also the fact that in the early days of the spraying I lost at least 20 goldfish from a large outside pond plus 5 budgies from the aviary. When I realised the awful smell outside was killing our pets I had a plan. As soon as we heard the spray plane at 5.50am my husband rushed outside and covered the fishpond and I rushed and covered the aviary. From that day on we didn't lose any more fish or birds.

Unfortunately the inquiry cannot take Laura's Lupus away but it may help other people in the future.

End
