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Friday, 16 November 2001

Mr Paul Reis
 Military Compensation and
 Rehabilitation Service
 Department of Veterans' Affairs
 Level 19
 PO Box 21
 WODEN ACT 2606



Dear Mr Reis

Re: **FILE REFERENCE: FRA0173-01**

I refer to your letter dated 5 November 2001 regarding my request for reconsideration under the **Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988**, and advise that I am able to provide the following information:

The incidents of bastardisation which I make reference to in my initial statement occurred between July 1967 and July 1968. Medical conditions arising as a result of my treatment during this period occurred from July 1969 onwards. The exception being Post Traumatic Stress, which remained with me following the incidents in 1967-1968 and was not dealt with until January 2001.

In response to your questions about the lateness of the claim:

1. I became aware of all my medical conditions with the exception of Peripheral Neuropathy, Depression and Post Traumatic Stress whilst serving in the ADF. The Peripheral Neuropathy and Depression surfaced in 1995 and Post Traumatic Stress whilst affecting me since 1967 was not diagnosed or treated, the reason being that (PTS) is a relatively recent diagnosis.
2. I first sought treatment for my conditions at the time of their occurrence:
 - a. Oedema – 1969
 - b. Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) – 1974
 - c. Peripheral Neuropathy – 1995
 - d. Depression – 1995
 - e. Post Traumatic Stress – 2001
3. I was not aware that I was able to claim compensation or receive treatment for my conditions following discharge from the ADF.
4. I was not aware of my rights when I first became aware of my conditions.

5. I did not lodge a claim for compensation prior to discharge from the ADF, as I was not aware of my rights. As can be seen in the attached discharge records, the conditions IBS and Nervous Disorder are documented as existing medical conditions.

My decision to make a claim for compensation so long after the actual incidents, which took place in-1967 – 1968, is based upon two considered reasons. These are:

- (a) I have attempted in the years following the incidents to *'get on with life'*. This was the reply I received when I made the first of two official complaints about my treatment at HMAS Leeuwin. However my efforts over the years to conceal the truth about these incidents finally gave in to a situation of Post Traumatic Stress during an intense 2 hour counselling session with my Rehabilitation Consultant on 6 December 2000. Only then did I realise the impact of these incidents upon my life.
- (b) I have only recently been able to make the connection between what happened to me in 1967 – 1968 and the subsequent medical conditions occurring in my life.

The following is a list as requested of some of the general practitioners and medical specialists I have seen since my discharge from the ADF. Many, indeed most general practitioners/specialists are not included on this list as they are no longer in the same locality:

Dr N Corbett-Jones Caringbah Family Practice, 379 Port Hacking Road, Caringbah New South Wales, Telephone No. (02) 9525 6666 (General Practitioner). Treated – Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)

Deirdre Wise Psychology Centre, 81 Princes Street, Sandy Bay Tasmania, Telephone No. (03) 6223 1138 (Psychologist). Treated – Post Traumatic Syndrome and Depression.

Dr Bruce Taylor MBF Centre, 25 Argyle Street, Hobart Tasmania, Telephone No. (03) 6231 3781 (Neurologist). Treated – Peripheral Neuropathy.

Dr Greg Schwarz Beach Road Medical Centre, 3 Beach Road, Sandy Bay Tasmania, Telephone No. (03) 6225 5155. (General Practitioner). Treated – all medical conditions

Dr Robert Burgess 287 Macquarie Street, Hobart Tasmania Telephone No. (03) 6224 5228 (Psychotherapist). Treated – Depression and Post Traumatic Stress.

Anne Nalder MBF Centre, 25 Argyle Street, Hobart Tasmania, Telephone No. [REDACTED] (Rehabilitation Consultant). Treated – Anne has been supportive to me in every aspect of my present circumstances. She can be contacted for any information in regard to this matter.

As requested I have attached details of my employment history following my discharge from the ADF.

Yours faithfully

Graeme Frazer

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ps.
I am currently having discussions with a former Naval Chaplain at HMAS Leeuwin who may be able to assist me as a witness in this matter. I will forward details when available.