



The Returned & Services League of Australia

Serpentine –Jarrahdale RSL Sub-Branch
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All Correspondence Addressed To Secretary
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Hon Greg Thompson
Minister of Veterans Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa Ontario K1A 0A6
CANADA.

Dear Minister

I write this letter to you with some despair and a sense of disbelief . Despair because of the past fight the Veterans and Families had to endure with successive Governments of Australia to have recognized the devastating effect that the chemical known as Agent Orange had on them.

Despair because of the vast amount of material available around the world that proves the debilitating disabilities visited on not only those exposed but the next generation of innocent children who also suffer the effects with a vast number of disabilities simply because their parents where exposed.

All this is not in doubt with health study after health study conducted in various countries that all come up with the same conclusions of the harmful affects of Agent Orange.

I have first hand knowledge of this as I am a Vietnam Veteran working with Veterans of all conflicts and their families as a Veterans Advocate. I have made many representations to the Australian Department of Veterans Affairs on behalf of the Veterans and their families who have been inflicted with disabilities that have been proven to be the effects of Agent Orange.

Minister I urge you to treat fairly the Veterans and Families who have and are suffering the effects of this terrible chemical, simply because it would appear they were in the wrong place at the wrong time and should have had a clear expectation of being safe from this terrible chemical on their own soil. A Public Inquiry into the sprayings of Agent Orange at Gagetown is what is being asked, I concede this may be an embarrassment to the current Canadian Government but it is simply the right thing to do, and I would think when it was done, it was not of your doing.

But like our Prime Minister the treatment of our indigenous people in the past was not of his or his Governments doing but he stood in the Australian Parliament and apologised on behalf of the Government and the Australian people, this apology was ignored by the previous Governments for reasons only known to them. But he did the right thing, simply because it was right.

I now see it as your turn to simply do the right thing simply because it is right and your people should have been safe in their homes in their own country from this terrible chemical not inflicted with generations of sickness.

The eyes of the world are watching, and we sincerely hope the treatment of the Veterans and the people of Gagetown is rectified by you as the Minister responsible, and that your knowledge of the issues should be first hand as the Military base at Gagetown is in your electorate .

Those of Gagetown affected need your help do the right thing.

Yours sincerely.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ric Giblett', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Ric Giblett JP
President Serpentine-Jarrahdale RSL
Veterans Advocate