



Hazelwood Inquiry info/DPC@DTF

09/05/2014 09:04 AM

To Hazelwood Inquiry  
info/DPC@DTF

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Subject Morwell Mine Fire Submission

1 attachment



Hazelwood-Mine-Fire-Disaster-Inquiry-Submission-Libby.docx

Title: Miss

First Name: Olivia

Surname: Brewer

Email address: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Content of submission (you can choose multiple): Other (please state)

If Other please state here: In my own words how the mine fire disaster has affected me and my family .

Please select one of the following options: I acknowledge that my submission will be treated as a public document and may be published, quoted or summarised by the Inquiry.

Upload Submission:

<http://hazelwoodinquiry.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/formidable/Hazelwood-Mine-Fire-Disaster-Inquiry-Submission-Libby.docx>

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05/05/2014

I Olivia Jade Brewer of [REDACTED] Morwell, Victoria am writing this as my own submission to the Hazelwood Mine Fire Disaster Inquiry (February 2014). I have been a Morwell rate payer since November 2007. And have been in good health.

This Fire is a total disaster. Below is a summary of how it has affected my health and to this date.

From when the Fire first started it made the air outside bad, horrible to breathe and be in.

Unfortunately my house (which was built around 1950's) has original floor boards that have gaps in them along with other various parts of the house where air can get in.

After leaving home on 12<sup>th</sup> February to attend my normal working job, I can say I was glad to get out of it all. Life was bliss not being in a contaminated town – which is meant to be my home, a safe place to live – not get sick.

I returned home on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at approx. 10pm heading past Moe on the Highway my eyes and nose started burning and throat became sore. I arrived in Morwell where I went to George St Coles to grab some essentials, then strait to my home. This evening I spent no longer than 15min outside.

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 all the above symptoms were still present and a Frontal Lobe Headache had decided it would choose me to attack.

On this day I spent no longer than 15min outside.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February, I presented myself to the Assessment Medical Centre in Saki Way, Morwell where my BP was 120/80(normal – but higher than what I usually am 110/70), My Oxygen Saturation and pulse were good, temp was 37.8(beginning to get a high temp) and carbon monoxide was 1 and decreased to zero whilst sitting inside. All symptoms still present.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2014 all symptoms are still present and by today I was feeling fatigued, and nexuses. I did not leave the house this day at all, too sick to go anywhere so I was curled up in a foetal position on the couch. Where I stayed for the whole day.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>, February 2014, All symptoms still present and I spent approx. 5min outside.

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014, Burning Nose, Frontal Lobe headache, Fatigue and nausea still present. Spent a 15min outside.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2014, Frontal Lobe headache & fatigue. Left home for work approx. 8.45am when the conditions in Morwell deteriorated even more.

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March, Sneezing, Watery eyes

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, Extreme Chest Pain radiating to the back. Came on very sudden and over the next 3hrs it became unbearable. I had to get up (after trying to sleep for 2hrs) and got in my car in severe pain put my seat warmers on and went for a drive in the hope it would ease things. Every breath every movement I took it was slowly killing me painful. I called nurse on call that put me through to a doctor on call who then advised me to get to a doctor within 4hrs. I attended one doctor, followed by Latrobe Regional Hospital (approx. 4pm) twice in the space of 8hrs where pain was just unbearable (I would rather go through Childbirth than what I was experiencing) it had me in tears and the hospital refused to scan me to make sure I was ok (coincidental?? that no doctor will tell you the truth in the Latrobe valley now). When I returned the second time – I probably should have called an Ambulance as I was in no state to drive at all but being the person I am I didn't so I drove to LRH again approx. 9pm. After approx. 90min of waiting someone came out and gave me 5mg Endone – this didn't work and they wanted to give me more, all I wanted was an answer and not to be pushed away or drugged up.

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 – I suffered a loss of breath from no cause after walking approx. 30m. This was just the beginning..... Washing my hair, brushing my hair, walking up only a few steps was making me struggle breathing. My upper body Back, chest/front had become very tender. There were no other symptoms present.

30<sup>th</sup> April, I saw a doctor @ [REDACTED] Medical Centre who suggested I may have an Upper Respiratory Tract Infection. And was given a script for Ventolin and Antibiotics (which I didn't take, as that's not the issue, the real issue is being covered up). A chest X-ray showed very little

4<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 – Still finding it hard to breathe, aches still very sore around the body as listed above.

5<sup>th</sup> May 2014, Presented to doctor at [REDACTED] Medical Service where I was sent off for bloods and an Ultrasound of throat area where I am finding it hard to breathe.

TO this day I am extremely disappointed I have had to endure such poor living conditions. I have 3 young children 4, 5, 7. Who have all suffered too. What do you tell them when you find out your dying and won't be around? Or if they are terminally ill? This is all very hard to process and I hate living each day knowing that this is the reality I may have to face.

Who's going to pay to decontaminate my home since the insurance company won't cough up? I have to work to live but yet am entitled to no assistance at all. This is a physical, emotional and physiological. We live in this awful place knowing its hurting us because we cant afford to pay for another home. Our new car I bought(well actually still paying it off) had only 6,000k on the clock when the fire hit and yep it's the same as the house. Ash particles all inside the car places I gant get too, and kids have to breath it in as do I as no one will pay to decontaminate the car. Ive got issues her running rough and starting – Holden have advised me that it seems to be the start of a currently undiagnosed issue. My house has devalued whos going to compensate me for that ? Ive put in the last 12mths over \$20,000 that I had worked and unfortunately inherited into her. Prior to that( since November 2008) there has been well over \$20,000+ put into the house.

The need for decontamination could have been prevented had GDF Suez followed the Mine Rehabilitation plan they should have in place. This Environmental/health disaster should never happen again. Hazelwood should be shut down, if GDF Suez cant follow mine regulations.

A State Of Emergency should have been called so none of us would have to live with the health issues we have now, and the clean up should be given to all residents irrespective of wage, sex, disability etc. We all need help and just because you work you may earn the same as someone on the government payments) your not entitled to anything. But a plastic bucket with instruction on how to clean – we are not even qualified to remove these particles that have left Hazelwood mine and entered our homes and cars. Not to mention they are in our roof cavities with our insulation and the ash is Flammable. The water we drink – it has been tested and proven we should not even be drinking it. I know so many other people who have also suffered just by working in the town of Morwell.

I don't know what else to put in here or if this was even right, I have very minimal support around this and that's making life hard.

If you want more information fell free to email me [REDACTED] as I'm a shift worker. Or you can attempt to call by phone [REDACTED]

Kind Regards,

Olivia Brewer

 Morwell

(yes the smoke did cross the rail way line)