

Kiery Anne Clissold_Health... | [Icons: Back, Home, Recent, Refresh, Add, Print, Full Screen, Menu]

Kiery-Anne Clissold
Submission re. Health

Chronology

- At the time of the outbreak of the Hazelwood mine fire, I was celebrating my birthday in Drouin at my eldest daughter's home. I and my husband Craig (Harry) McCormack, Sandy Von Stiglitz (friend over from Tasmania), my Brother, David Clissold and his wife Jancy, had trouble returning to our hometown of Morwell due to road closures from the bushfires and mine fire.
- Our youngest daughter was trapped in Coles (her place of employment) for 24 hours which was frightening for all. Especially as you could not see the back of the store from inside the building, due to massive amount of smoke and ash. The building remained like this for weeks and weeks, with no staff members even offered - ineffective or defective 'Tradies' masks. (Deadly Atmosphere) to 'have' to work in or enter to shop in!
- Upon return to our residence in Evan Street Morwell I felt symptoms almost immediately, so did Sandy. These included tearing eyes, nausea and vomiting, headaches, and sore throat, we were already coughing up 'Black Stuff' that neither of us has seen in our selves before. We were all shallow breathing as we did not want to breathe in the smoke from the fire. The air was terrible, more than bushfire smoke which we'd experienced before. It was oily and you could taste it - it stayed with you, on you, and in you! There was no escaping this clingy, insidious poison, it was just everywhere!
- I was sick for about three weeks before my husband was sick. I'd been to the St. John's ambulance station that was set up as an emergency refuge and temporary respite. I had to fill out paperwork every time I went to a clinic type set up. An ambulance member gave me some Oxygen, this helped to reduce my headache and nausea for 15 minutes or so, and made me feel a touch better. I was offered some 'Tradies' masks for myself and the family and only realised after using this to breathe deeply on the way home, (feeling sicker and sicker with a massive headache, just increasing), that the mask was faulty! Three of the six masks I had been given, were also faulty, with no filter at all in the breathe hole! We all knew they were 'tradie' masks and not the industrial ones we needed to really protect us. They were defective and inadequate.
- We first left town on (approx) 20/02/14. We accessed the support offered to do this and bought a tent and camped out the back of Boolarra. We camped for about 2 weeks and then returned to Morwell. It took several days after leaving Morwell to start feeling fairly normal again. Both Craig and myself experienced 4-5 nights with incredibly bad night terrors (very unusual-nightmares) every time we evacuated our Home!! We left town a total of four times during the mine fire.
- We came into town every couple of days, just to check the house and the other car, I can only guess at the dates, 23/02, 25/02 28-29/02 and so on... This time on our return, I felt sick again very quickly upon entering the area and Harry started to feel ill too. He apologised to me for not understanding what I'd been feeling sooner. He was also having really severe blood noses with his headaches and he has NEVER suffered from any of these symptoms during the 30 years I have known him, or indeed, during his life before that!
- One morning when the smoke was very thick and our house reeked, the dog had blisters on his lip from the water bowl, Harry said "This is going to kill us, we need to go - get in the car". we both thought this would be a 'James Hardy' type of poisoning that could take years to affect or even kill us, we never thought it would get people so quickly and suddenly!
- The second time we left we spend 4 days at the Lakes Entrance Log Cabins. It took a good 48 hours of clean air before the headaches, night terrors, lethargy and nose bleeds stopped. During

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all of this our eyes were suffering tremendously. Very sore and weepy. ↵

- When we came home the third time, I felt ill again and was vomiting coming back towards town, and Harry had a headache and a nose Hemorage within an hour or so of coming back into the area and town. We didn't seek medical attention at the hospital as we all knew (The Whole Area) that it was the; smoke, (contaminated Steam from the water taken from Hazelwood Pondage, pollutants, ash and PM2.5 Carcinogenic Toxins we were breathing, eating, sleeping with, drinking - No one went to the hospital as no one in town wanted to Clog local emergency services. ↵
- I noticed on a number of occasions, the total lack of birds in our town! BIG warning sign to me and most others, that the air....is Toxic! ↵
- Harry collapsed on Sunday 1 September 2014 at 10.36am I called an ambulance. There was no heart beat, so i commenced CPR, one handed to resuscitate. Ambulance arrived in approx eight minutes. They got Craigs Hrrartbeat back very quickly and had to back off the adrenaline. He went to Latrobe Regional Hospital where they informed me that he had suffered a Brain Haemorage and was transferred to Monash Medical Centre via helicopter. We were told he had a level 5 aneurism with level one damage (similar to a mild stroke) This heamorage occurred in his hippocampus, The Center of the Brain! Many others have had an anurisym occur in this region of the brain, enough to cause major concerns to the Neurological Team at Monash Medical Centre. He survived two procedures, but passed away on 6 September 2014 due to his brain swelling too much. Which left no differential Hemispheres. His brain went to mush. ↵
- The surgeons at Monash Medical Centre were gobsmacked at the number of aneurisms they'd seen from Latrobe Valley and the number of Coiling Procedures the neuroscientists and surgeons have preformed on people from the Latrobe Valley! One of Craigs surgeons told me that "aneurysms happen of course, but they are very uncommon" well, they seem to be a common occurrence in our town and surrounds, there have been so many people of all ages who have suffered the same type of brain heamorage as Craig, in their Hippocampus. Between the beginning of the mine fire to now, I have heard of at least 60 people who have had a similar, if not the same, type of brain bleed! I have also spoken with a local pharmacist who told me that he has lost 38 elderly customers recently which he thought was due to the effects of the fire. ↵

Craig (Harry) McCormack's history ↵

- Craig and I have known each other for approx 30 years, we have been together for 27 of those years. He had one child already and we had two daughters together. ↵
- Harry was a light smoker but otherwise healthy. He never suffered from a headache in his life - or any type of nose bleeds, he was fairly fit for his age and was a social, light drinker and did not drink pre-mixed (sugars) He never ate sugars, carbohydrates, refined or memanufactured foods. At all, and he had a really tough constitution, ie, I'd vomit.....way, way, way, before he did. A cast iron gut! ↵
- Craig was an Interstate truck driver, but was unemployed at the time of the mine fire. He was working for Auz Country Carriers at the time of his Sudden Death. He had signed a Ten Year Contract with Greg Davis, proprietor, for exclusive Bunnings deliveries from Warragul to Lakes Entrance. Greg had purchased a New Scania for him and the term of the contract. He was due to start on the Monday, the day after his Anurisym. He was very excited about the future prospects of this for our personal, and families future and welfare. ↵
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Association with the fire. ↵

- The only time in our 27 years together that Craig (Harry) ever suffered from a headache of any kind, was during the coal mine fire. The pain was so bad it would make him vomit and cause his nose to haemorrhage. Even then he was very reluctant to take a panadol as he did not like to take any type of medicines. ↵
- In 93, we donated my 13 yr old sisters organs, both Harry and I discussed then, what to do if ever we were in a similar position where quality of life was involved., what to do. We are both organ donors. He was so healthy and with no pre existing conditions, that after all the testing was completed we could donate all of Craig's organs except for his liver, as that was damaged over the previous week with medications and Heparin, they use this pre-opp to keep the organs ready for transplant. After the first stage of 'transplants' had been done, Monash Medical then send the body on to the Coroner's office for the next step in the process; bone samples from the thies with bone marrow as well. This can save hundreds of leukemia sufferers. Unfortunately, Craig had a viral flue at the time of his death (unknown to him) that prevented this part of the process from being acceptable. That night, I went back to Morwell, a few of my friends and social media were talking about 3-4 other autism that had only recently occurred. I fixed up my room from the ambulance mess and went to sleep. I awoke about 4.30 in the morning in an absolute panic about Craig's and my own previous severe headaches, the toxins from the fire and the Donor Recipients. I rang the donor team and asked "if I had remembered about the fires and his headaches and nose bleeds, would he still have been acceptable as an organ donor? The reply was "unfortunately, no! For the plain and simple fact that the science has not been done on the Saturated effects on the Human Condition, of PM2.5 Toxins and Carcinogens of Australian Brown Coal!" ↵
- Thinking Craig's body was at the Coroner's for the second part of the donor process, I immediately petitioned Justice Ian Grey to investigate this Moral and Ethical dilemma, and use Craig's tissue samples for testing. This could provide peace of mind all round. I also contacted the Donor Support Team to inform them of my concerns. They are watching the Recipients very closely, and will be for many years to come, to monitor for any of the health concerns that are plaguing us. ↵
- We were ignored by Government during the fires, so had been doing our own investigation of the effects of exposure to brown coal smoke. We knew the smoke was toxic. ↵
- I'm also worried about what it means for me – am I going to get an aneurism, or our kids? Georgia had to work in Coles everyday and you literally could not see the back of the store from inside at the front! Does she need to have the 3 tests required to find a brain aneurysm? An MRI an MRA and a CAT SCAN? The doctors have to specifically look for an aneurysm, and they are very hard to find. Two weeks ago I was refused Life Insurance by Insurance Line, because I've had three Asthma attacks since the coal mine fire. I've never had one before in my life! Very, very scary! ↵

Involvement of the Coroner ↵

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- After Harry's death and the first stage of the donor process I realised that if he had PM2.5 in his organ tissues, then some of the damage may be passed on to the donor recipients. ↵
- I alerted the donor team who advised that they were not aware that he had been affected by the fire and had they been, they definitely would not have accepted his donated organs! ↵
- I also requested that the coroner conduct an autopsy on Harry – I wanted them to take a sample

of his brain and test for PM2.5. I also wanted the tissue samples that all organ donors have removed around the organ donated and kept in frozen storage for many years, tested for these

of his brain and test for PM2.5. I also wanted the tissue samples that all organ donors have removed around the organ donated and kept in frozen storage for many years, tested for these 6000-8000 microscopic Toxic Particles as well! They did not, and advised that an aneurism is considered a natural form of death and as such were not prepared to conduct an autopsy, despite there being no hereditary indicators for Harry's aneurism. Copies of correspondence with the Coroner are attached.

Health improvements in Latrobe Valley

- One of the biggest issues in the Latrobe Valley community is now lack of trust – of the Federal, State and Local Governments. There were many businesses that went out of business, people have lost money in real estate as housing values have dropped significantly – so even if we want to get out, we can't move now. The community is very disillusioned.
- We know the fire is still burning underground so we are still being exposed to pollution.
- To try and rebuild that trust we need honesty, accountability and transparency. And we need action – then the healing can begin. We need the Governments to say we stuffed up and apologise. We've had no apology, accountability or indeed acknowledgement!. The mining company GDF SUEZ' Mission Statement has no amenity for the people in the area in case of a Catastrophy like this. They do include being aware of the environment and subsequent damage from the mining industry, but nothing put in place for its people, Australians! All People, in their private and professional lives, these days HAVE to be accountable for their actions and have to abide by laws and regulations. I ask you... "Why not GDP SUEZ?" – What's wrong with this picture?
- WE ARE ALL SMARTER THAN THAT! We don't need to burn our ancient rain Forests to energise our country any more, we have the technology and the know-how to phase out this KILLER industry and start to implement 'Green Changes' that certainly don't kill people!
- Perhaps people need to be given the option to leave and assistance to do so. A buyout package for homeowners and funds for people still living under the Henderson Poverty Line... and there are many, not just welfare recipients. Much is needed, and a 'Think Tank' on these issues would not go astray!!!
- The medical profession also need to provide full disclosure. They are all under pressure and not wanting to draw a link with the mine fire but we need the truth.
- We also need the science – the evidence on the effects of brown coal on health, and the SATURATED EFFECTS ON THE HUMAN CONDITION!
- You must remember that we were literally Saturated in these Toxins! Don't, please for one minute compare this Mine Fire with a 'Standard' Australian Bush Fire... because That, it most certainly wasn't! This was more like living in the middle of a 30km square truck tyre blaze, inferno, volcano.....for weeks and weeks and weeks and weeks, do you see a picture here? I hope so, because it was insidious and horrific, and never ending, and it's killing people still!!
- I'm also aware of many others who've had miscarriages and birth defects after being pregnant during the mine fire. Some babies stopped growing and had to be delivered early. One girl asked the Latrobe Regional Hospital to test the babies tissue for PM2.5 and wanted her request to the Coroner attached to my Petition, but it was denied her. They refused.
- We want some answers but to get them with the correct data we need people to come forward, and for that, we need to start soliciting some trust in the general populous towards those that ignored our plight, down right lied to us, and then were negligent in dealing with the whole scenario, front issuing totally useless Tradies Masks to deal with known microscopic carcinogenic

particle's, not calling for an evacuation after 3 days into the burn, not calling 'air pollution Warnings for the city if Melbourne and along the known toxic weather path (Launceston did, three days in total and advised its residents to apply wet towels to windows and doors), we never had a single warning or any such advice, living right at the lip of this spewing hole, our ever increasing number of deaths, sudden or otherwise... ignored.... The list goes on and on and on!

- It's time now to make the changes that need to be made, or at least start a solid foundation for them. It's time to hold big companies and corporations accountable for their mistakes, oversights and downright conscious negligence! Enough is enough, don't let any more people get poisoned or die. This Inquiry has the power and hopefully influence to help bring about these much needed and Desperate changes. I can't bring my husband and the girl's father and grandfather back, but we can certainly make his death not for nothing! He was poisoned and killed, murdered by the coal mine's toxins burning for so long and by GDF SUEZ's negligence towards the people who live and breathe next door to it.
- There is no doubt in my mind or many, many others', that these toxins, PM2.5 carcinogens are what is causing many sudden deaths, many health concerns and terrible fright throughout the Latrobe Valley, and I've no doubt it was these toxins that killed my healthy 49 year old husband, father and grandfather, my very best friend.
- please we all need some answers!
- please find attached all relevant documentation. Thank you for your time and consideration. We need this and have since the beginning of this insidious nightmare!