



MEDIA RELEASE

December 5th

Federal Government chooses to ‘delay and deny justice’

The Assistant Defence Minister has shot down one of his own MP’s and given a two-finger salute to thousands of families across Australia by confirming communities contaminated by toxic fire-fighting foam won’t be fairly compensated.

“On Monday a bipartisan federal parliamentary inquiry said the mishandling of PFAS contamination in Australia was so bad an independent office should be set up to manage it and broad-based compensation put in place,” said CAP President Lindsay Clout.

The Chair of that inquiry, Liberal MP Andrew Laming, has since stated “justice delayed is justice denied” and that a full suite of remediation, blood testing and compensation packages set out in the report should be put in place.

Late yesterday his colleague Assistant Minister David Fawcett said the Government will not shift from its policy of refusing to implement a broad-based compensation scheme and take a “case by case” approach which was already, “well down the path.”ⁱ

“Let’s keep in mind that not one of those 41 compensation cases he refers to has been resolved in over four years, “ said Mr Clout. “That’s why well over 1000 families and businesses in Williamstown, Oakey and Katherine alone have had to take their own Government to court in a process they’ve dragged out for over two years already.

This Minister also hasn’t showed his face in one of these communities for over a year preferring to hide behind a crumbling façade of a “no consistent evidence” claim as to the toxicity of PFAS.

Well, in the last month alone Italian medical researchers have tied PFAS exposure to dramatic declines in male fertilityⁱⁱ and researchers from Harvard University have stated there is no “*justification for delaying risk mitigation actions.*”ⁱⁱⁱ in managing PFAS contamination.

This Government has lost control of this contamination crisis, it has refused to heed the medical evidence, the community testimony to the Inquiry and now the recommendations of its own party colleagues,” said Mr Clout.

Ends



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Background on CAP and PFAS:

CAP is made up of representatives from communities around Australia with the foundation members being from Williamstown, Oakey, Katherine and Gippsland.

ⁱ ABC Newcastle interview December 4th.

ⁱⁱ <https://theintercept.com/2018/11/30/pfoa-and-pfos-cause-lower-sperm-counts-and-smaller-penises-study-finds/> The researchers compared male high school students who had been exposed to high levels of PFOA and PFOS in Veneto to young men who hadn't been exposed and found that those in the exposed group had shorter penises, lower sperm counts, lower sperm mobility, and a reduction in "anogenital distance," a measure that scientists see as a marker of reproductive health.

ⁱⁱⁱ https://www.nature.com/articles/s41370-018-0094-1.epdf?author_access_token=3ZB0YGs1sYhg_TUzSbBjF9RgNOjAjWel9jnR3ZoTv0MEa_7SmD47hq5q8t1LmU_iu9AMON8ALFzE-

[SJDB5hGN3G7By82wctb9eZFCozVkc4AOITVnKp1OsMW_NoEHJc9r_KCd0OPXESGfVoVA4F60w%3D%3D](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41370-018-0094-1.epdf?author_access_token=3ZB0YGs1sYhg_TUzSbBjF9RgNOjAjWel9jnR3ZoTv0MEa_7SmD47hq5q8t1LmU_iu9AMON8ALFzE-SJDB5hGN3G7By82wctb9eZFCozVkc4AOITVnKp1OsMW_NoEHJc9r_KCd0OPXESGfVoVA4F60w%3D%3D)

"Although additional data are needed to understand the full extent of impacts of PFAS exposures on human health, particularly at sensitive life stages, we assert that this should not be used as a justification for delaying risk mitigation actions. "