

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

REPORT ON THE HARASSMENT OF A WITNESS

DRUGS IN SPORT INQUIRY

8 DECEMBER 1988

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
ENVIRONMENT, RECREATION AND THE ARTS

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Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Recreation and the Arts

Drugs in Sport Inquiry

Report on the Harassment of a Witness

Background

On 19 May 1988 the following matter was referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Recreation and the Arts:

the use by Australian sportsmen and sportswomen of performance enhancing drugs and the role played by Commonwealth agencies.

Advertisements seeking submissions were placed in the national press on 9 June 1988 and letters were sent to sporting and other organisations informing them of the inquiry and seeking their participation.

On 21 October 1988, pursuant to a direction from the Chairman, the Secretary of the Committee spoke to Ms Sue Howland on the telephone, inviting her to appear before the Committee. Following further discussions Ms Howland agreed on 27 October 1988 that she would appear before the Committee, together with Ms Gael Martin, on 9 November 1988. This was to be an in-camera hearing, at the request of the witnesses. (Attachment 1). On 8 November 1988 the Secretary received a call from Ms Howland to say that as Ms Martin felt unable to appear on the agreed date, for reasons which she did not want to enter into, the meeting would have to be cancelled. Ms Howland did indicate that she would be prepared to appear before the Committee at a later date, possibly in December, and that by then the matters which were preventing Ms Martin appearing might have resolved themselves.

On 24 November 1988 the Committee resolved to issue to Ms Howland (and to Ms Martin) a formal summons to appear before the Committee and to produce relevant papers. The summons was served on 29 November 1988 (Attachment 2) and Ms Howland appeared at a hearing of the Committee held on the evening of 30 November 1988. The witness had her legal representative present throughout the hearing.

### Harassment of Witness

The Secretary of the Committee received a telephone call from Ms Howland on the afternoon of 1 December 1988, the day after she had appeared before the Committee. Ms Howland informed the Secretary that, as the hearing had continued into the early hours of that morning, she had spent the previous night at Ms Martin's house. On returning to the house in which she had been living she had received a note telling her to look for other accommodation. Ms Howland said she believed she had been evicted because of her appearance before the Committee and this was supported by the note telling her to seek new accommodation. She said the owner of the house in which she had been living was Mr Greg Blood, an employee of the Australian Institute of Sport. As such he may have found some of the evidence she had given embarrassing. Ms Howland also said that she had been informed prior to the proposed hearing on 9 November 1988 (which was subsequently cancelled) that, should she provide to the Committee documentary evidence in her possession, she would be expected to move out of the house in which she was then living.

On Friday, 2 December 1988 Ms Howland provided to the Committee a letter and attachment setting out the information she had given the Secretary, together with a copy of the note she had received asking her to leave the house. These are at Attachment 3.

### Conclusion

On the basis of the letters received from Ms. Howland and the note requesting her to find new accommodation, the Committee believes that a prima facie case rests that Ms Howland has been subject to harassment as a result of giving evidence, under summons, to the Committee.

In the Committee's view this is a serious matter requiring action by the Senate if the progress of the Committee's inquiry is not to be impeded.

J.R. Black  
Chairman



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT RECREATION AND THE ARTS

3 November 1988

Ms S Howland

Dear Ms Howland

Following our recent telephone conversations I am writing to confirm arrangements for you to give evidence in camera for the Committee's inquiry on Drugs in Sport on Wednesday 9 November at 8.30 - 10.30pm in Senate Committee Room 13, Parliament House, Canberra.

I have enclosed two copies of 'Notes of Guidance of Witnesses' and 'Procedures ... for the Protection of Witnesses', together with details of the location of the Senate-side entrance where I will arrange for you to be met if you ask the attendant to advise me of your arrival.

On 29 September the Committee resolved to release submissions received up to that date which had not been given in camera and I have attached a list of these submissions for your information. In relation to your evidence, the issues with which the Committee is likely to be concerned include:

- . the extent to which performance enhancing drugs are used by Australian sportsmen and sportswomen
- . the drugs being used
- . reasons for using performance enhancing drugs and the case for and against them
- . evidence of the effect of these drugs upon performance and health
- . the supply and availability of these drugs
- . the role of the individuals, the Government, including the AIS and Sports Bodies
- . the basis on which bans or limits are imposed on these drugs
- . the test procedures in Australia and overseas and
- . the penalties imposed for drug use

If you require further information on the procedure for this inquiry please feel free to contact me. (telephone 77 3525)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Les Rymer'.

Les Rymer  
Secretary

Attachment 2



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

1988-1989

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, RECREATION AND THE ARTS

29 November 1988

Ms Sue Howland

Dear Ms Howland

At the direction of the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Recreation and the Arts, you are hereby summoned to attend at Committee Room No. 15, Parliament House, Canberra on Wednesday 30 November 1988 at 8.30pm, then and there to give evidence upon the subject referred to the Committee by the Senate, and then and there to produce all records, letters and accounts, and all papers and documents whatsoever in your possession, custody or control relevant to the subject matter of the Committee's inquiry; and you are required to continue in attendance as directed by the Committee or its Chairman until your attendance is no longer required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Les Rymer'.

Les Rymer  
Secretary



Dear Senator Black,

As a result of my appearance before the Senate Committee inquiry into "Drugs in Sport" on 30/11/88 and my answering of questions relating to the A.I.S. I have now been told by the ~~owner~~ owner (employee of the A.I.S.) Mr Greg Blood of the house in which I have been living that I now have to find alternative accommodation as soon as possible.

I find this distressing as I believe in giving an honest account of what I know relating to the questions asked and as usual it is the honest ones who always come out worst off.

Yours sincerely,  
Ian Holland.  
2/12/88

The address in which I was living is

Mr Blood is still residing at this address.

The first time I was due to appear before  
the Senate Committee I was warned that if I  
made certain documents public I would  
have to find alternative accommodation.  
Previous to the actual meeting in which I did  
attend 30/11/88, nothing was indicated that  
I would have to find alternative accommodation.

She Handland:  
2/12/88.





Sue

I'm afraid you will have to look for  
alternative accommodation as soon as possible.

I'm sick & tired of the drugs in sport.

You can say what you like, I can  
choose who lives in my house

It was a very hard decision to make.

Greg.