

PFAS Select Committee inquiry — petition submitted by Sophie Barrett

Change.org petition available at: <https://www.change.org/p/urgent-have-your-say-on-pfas-cancer>

63 signatories as at 30 September 2025 (date of submission)



URGENT: Have Your Say on PFAS & Cancer

The issue

Parliamentary Enquiry into PFAS Open for Submissions until 30 September

Cancer, particularly in younger people, is on the rise in Australia.

- The Leukaemia Foundation reports a 40% increase in childhood blood cancers over the last two decades.
- A Medical Journal of Australia study showed an 34% increase in childhood cancers between 1983 and 2015.
- Four Corners recently ran a story on “Generation Cancer”, citing increases between 4% and 500% in young people 30-40 being diagnosed with various types of cancer.

This heartbreaking trend cannot be explained by genetics alone. Environmental factors must be part of the story. One group of toxic chemicals, known as PFAS (“forever chemicals”), are already linked internationally to cancers and immune disorders. PFAS are found in our food chain, drinking water, packaging, and everyday products. Of the approximately 16,000 chemicals used in plastics, only one-third have been tested, and of those, 75% were found to be hazardous (Symeonides, Four Corners, 2025).

Right now, a Parliamentary Inquiry into PFAS is underway, but unless families and the community speak up, action may not follow.

What you can do

Email your story or statement to PFAS.sen@aph.gov.au

Submissions are open now, don't miss this chance to be heard.

Who should make a submission?

Everyone who has:

- ✓ A child who has battled cancer
- ✓ Lived through cancer themselves
- ✓ Supported or lost someone to cancer
- ✓ Or simply believes Australians deserve protection from harmful chemicals

What we are calling for:

- Fund urgent, independent research into PFAS and cancer.
- Ban non-essential PFAS in food packaging, clothing and consumer products.
- Mandate safety testing for all plastics before they are allowed on supermarket shelves, and mandatory labelling of PFAS levels on products.
- Please forward this to your networks or anyone affected by cancer, every story strengthens the case for action. Together, we can push Parliament to protect our children and future generations from preventable chemical risks.

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WRITE YOUR OWN LETTER USING TEMPLATE BELOW:

“Copy, paste, add your personal story, and email to PFAS.sen@aph.gov.au

To: PFAS.sen@aph.gov.au

Subject: Submission to the PFAS Inquiry – Childhood Cancer and Chemical Safety

Dear Select Committee on PFAS,

I am writing to make a submission to the Inquiry into PFAS. Cancer has touched my life through [insert your story here- e.g. my child's diagnosis, my own experience with cancer, a family member, or a friend]. This experience has made me deeply concerned about the rising rates of childhood cancer in Australia and the role that environmental factors may play.

Statistics show that the number of people being diagnosed with cancer is increasing at alarming rates and the Leukaemia Foundation states blood cancers in children have risen by around 40% in the past 20 years. The persistence of PFAS “forever chemicals” in our environment, food chain, and drinking water creates an unavoidable exposure risk for every Australian family. International research has already linked PFAS to serious health issues, including some cancers.

I believe the government must take urgent action to protect current and future generations by:

Funding urgent, independent research into PFAS and cancer.

Banning non-essential PFAS in food packaging, clothing and consumer products.

Requiring safety testing for all plastics before they are allowed on supermarket shelves, and mandatory labelling of PFAS levels on products.

Australians deserve to live free from preventable chemical risks. Please ensure this Inquiry delivers strong recommendations to protect our children and communities.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

[Optional: Your town/state]