

Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Parliamentary inquiry – Use of the Quinoline anti-malarial drugs Mefloquine and Tafenoquine in the Australian Defence Force

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: SSCFADT - Inquiry into the use of anti-malarial drugs in the ADF - 5 Nov 18
Hearing - Q1 - Participant Alleging No Consent Given - Abetz

Question reference number: 1

Senator: Eric Abetz

Type of question: Spoken

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 16 November 2018

Question:

Mr Bush: I was given the drug. I was never told about it. To me, that's a crime.

CHAIR: How did you become a participant in the trial without signing a consent form?

Mr Bush: You tell me.

CHAIR: You have evidence to say you were given tafenoquine?

Mr Bush: Yes.

CHAIR: And there is no evidence that you consented to that?

Mr Bush: Yes. Only found out by accident.

CHAIR: So there is no explanation of any risks or side-effects and no signature on a consent form?

Mr Bush: Yes, that's correct.

The Committee requests that Defence respond to the claim that Mr Bush did not provide consent to participate in the trial.

Answer:

Mr Michael Bush was on the tafenoquine eradication trial (February 1999 to April 2000). The Department of Defence has his signed consent form on file. At his request, a copy of his full trial record (including the signed consent form) was provided to him on 7 November 2016.