

We have been going down to Barwon Heads since 1977, my parents purchased the land and built a house on it in 1991.

I would travel to Barwon Heads with my family at least every second weekend from 1977 to 1984. Following this it was monthly. From 1977 onwards all school holidays were spent at Barwon Heads. I have continued to spend Christmas and Easter holidays at Barwon Heads as well as weekends throughout the year.

My time at Barwon Heads was spent doing the following activities:

- Mowing the lawn
- Camping on our land in Caravan until 1991
- In 1991 my parents built our house.
- Fishing at lake Connewarre
- Playing at park near the river and park at corner of Barwon Heads Road and Sheepwash Road
- Riding bike around lake Connewarre and running/riding my bike around the streets and park.
- Hiding in bushes near our house and and down at the park on Sheepwash Road.
- Regularly going to the beach

August 2014 I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

March 2018, they found I had a brain tumour through my regular MRI scans to check if my MS had progressed. The type of tumour was a **Medulloblastoma**. I had the tumour removed in April 2018 and then went through radiation and chemotherapy.

In September 2019 I had a seizure and am now taking medication for this.

Terms of reference

- a. the health concerns of local residents;
The high concentration of people diagnosed with cancer and or auto immune disease in the Barwon Heads and Bellarine area is vastly disproportionate to the general population. With a diagnosed auto immune and cancer and considering the long length of time spent in Barwon Heads from 1977 onwards the fact that there may be a link to non-natural environmental factors happening in the area is realistic and concerning.
- b. the incidence of cancer cases in the area, and any possible environmental or other contributing factors;
People living and spending long holidays in the Barwon Heads area from the 1980's onwards have experienced cancer and other life threatening and debilitating diseases at an extremely high rate. From the 1980's onwards Barwon Heads was sprayed and bombed with Organophosphorous insecticide (OP) to alleviate mosquitos. This practice occurred at a high rate well into the 2000's.
With disproportionately high diagnoses of cancer and auto immune disease priority consideration needs to be given to the link between OP's and subsequent occurring diseases in Barwon Heads and wider Bellarine area.

- c. the evidence, approach and outcomes concerning the Victorian Chief Health Officer's investigation of cancer rates on the Bellarine Peninsula; and
- d. any other related matter.

My contribution to this submission is based on my diagnoses of cancer and Multiple Sclerosis and the need to identify causes and connection to the spraying of OP's and pesticides as many have been impacted and suffered in the Barwon Heads and wider Bellarine area.