Select Committee on PFAS (per and polyfluoroalkyl substances)
Submission 4

To the Committee Secretariat,

Senate Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

RE: Submission to the PFAS Contamination Inquiry - Anonymous Personal Testimony

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to formally submit my personal testimony to the current Parliamentary Inquiry into PFAS

Contamination.

This submission, titled *"Trapped in Contamination: A Mother's Plea for Liam's Safety,"* shares my

lived experience as a mother of two children with disabilities-one of whom, Liam, has profound

intellectual disability and severe PICA-and outlines the ongoing harm, distress, and inaction my

family has faced while living on PFAS-contaminated land in Western Australia.

Due to the sensitive and personal nature of this story, I respectfully request that my submission be

included in the inquiry's records under my name but that it be treated as anonymous in the public

domain.

This testimony is not about blame. It is about change. I hope it assists the Committee in

strengthening the systems and policies that are meant to protect vulnerable people-particularly

those with complex disabilities-from prolonged exposure to harm.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

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Kind	regards,
NIIIU	regards,

[Name Withheld]

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Trapped in Contamination: A Mother's Plea for Liam's Safety

Personal testimony to the PFAS Inquiry (2025)

Executive Summary

This submission is from a mother of two children with disabilities, including Liam, who has profound

intellectual disability and severe PICA. Our home in Western Australia is contaminated with PFAS,

and our family has consumed contaminated water and food for years. Despite medical professionals

advising relocation as the only viable option, we are still living in a toxic environment that endangers

Liam's life and our wellbeing. This is a plea for urgent, compassionate intervention.

Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry on PFAS Contamination

To Whom It May Concern,

This submission is provided as a personal testimony regarding the ongoing PFAS contamination

affecting my home and family. I respectfully request that this submission be recorded under my

name but treated as anonymous in the public record.

Our family resides at a property in Western Australia that has been confirmed to be contaminated

with PFAS. Over many years, my entire family - including my two children with disabilities - has

unknowingly consumed large quantities of PFAS through our environment: our soil, our home-grown

food, and our water. The psychological burden of this knowledge is profound and ongoing.

The harm caused by this contamination has been made worse by the time it has taken for any

meaningful response to be delivered. Despite numerous professionals - including support

coordinators, medical practitioners, and disability service representatives - consistently stating that

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relocation is the only viable and safe long-term option for my son "Liam", no such action has been

taken. Instead, remediation continues to be offered, even when all involved agree that such a

course would cause grave harm to our family.

All medical advice has been consistent: limit exposure to PFAS. However, this is impossible for a

person like Liam, who lives with complex disabilities including PICA, profound intellectual disability,

sensory processing disorder, high support autism, and communication limitations. Liam does not

understand danger, and his condition means he eats soil, grass, leaves, and other biota in his

environment. These are the very vectors through which PFAS contamination persists.

To make matters even more devastating, my mother - who has also resided on this contaminated

land and shared in the homegrown produce and water - has recently been diagnosed with stage

three cancer. This follows years of cumulative exposure to a known carcinogen in what was meant

to be her family home.

Liam requires a highly secure and adapted environment due to the complexity of his disability.

Relocation is not a preference - it is a necessity.

All levels of government have been made aware of our situation. And yet, nearly three years on, we

remain living in what feels like a prison. Liam's fundamental human rights - to live in a safe home

and to have access to clean water - are being violated.

The only tangible support we have received, nearly three years in, is the short-term provision of

delivered water - a measure that is unreliable, logistically difficult, and fundamentally inadequate for

meeting our family's long-term needs. The delays, uncertainty, and repeated disregard for the

well-being of vulnerable people has left us feeling unheard, exposed, and exhausted.

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Recent testing has shown that PFAS is still present in the groundwater and in the biota on our

property, which continues to pose an active threat to Liam and our family.

We did not cause this contamination. Yet every day we pay for it with our health, our safety, and our

sanity. The weight of that injustice is relentless.

We live in constant fear - fear that Liam will ingest something toxic again, fear that another family

member will fall ill, fear that one more delay will lead to irreversible harm. Our property, once built to

give Liam peace, has become a trap. We cannot sell it, cannot leave it, and cannot make it safe.

This is not just about inconvenience - it is about danger. The kind of danger no parent should ever

have to manage. It is about being forced to watch your child live 24/7 in poison because there is

literally nowhere else for him to go. It is about sleepless nights and emergency interventions. It is

about guilt. And it is about screaming for help into a silence that lasts for years.

Due to his complex disabilities and lack of understanding, Liam can become highly distressed under

stress, and in those moments, he may harm himself or others - at this point, only me. Whilst trying to

limit his exposure to keep him safe, we are in fact triggering his defence mechanisms - resulting in

severe self-harm, which I then try to limit, ending in me becoming hurt, to the point where I have

needed medical attention. What do I do? Allow him to consume the poison, which may cause harm

later, or stop it - which will cause harm now. The emotional and physical toll of trying to protect him

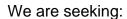
while knowing the very environment we live in is harming him is beyond words.

All levels of government are aware of the danger - and continuing inaction risks not only our health

but breaches of basic human rights, including Liam's right to a safe home, access to clean water,

and freedom from foreseeable harm.

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- Permanent relocation to a comparable property
- Urgent inter-agency coordination to plan and support this move
- Recognition of the long-term physical, emotional, and financial harm

We are not asking for perfection - just safety, stability, and dignity. Thank you for hearing our story.