

To the Committee

I am that daughter of the following letter written by my Mother over 20 years ago.

For 25 years I have suffered from MCS, CFS, Fibromyalgia and the last 4 years from EHS which is slowly getting worse and have only become aware by talking to other members as I thought it was part of being sensitive...I have acute hearing from Chemotherapy as a cancer sufferer and endured a bone marrow harvest as well.

Dr Mark Donohoe is also my Doctor...as per Lucy Wicks. MP

I now have done more research in the last year and am more informed on EHS.

My main concern is aged care, un suitable hospital care and housing for those with MCS as we cannot be exposed to synthetic fragrance, cosmetics, cleaning products and new materials as needed in housing

I fear for the future where will I be safe.

Regards

Deborah Lee

I once had a beautiful daughter - she was tall, slim, with long blonde hair and very sweet-natured - she was also very talented, having a fine voice and a great capacity for music. She enjoyed her career as a sales representative, had her own company car and a unit in Sydney. Life was wonderful. I was extremely proud of her for both her character and her achievements.

I still have that daughter but it is hard to believe she is the same person. Since becoming afflicted with MCS her life has changed dramatically. Where her life once was so full of hope and promise for the future, it is now one of quiet existence. She cannot enjoy the things most people take for granted, and has to stay away from all things chemical, which seems to encompass just about everything concerned with our day to day lives.

It is not only my daughter who has MCS - our family has MCS. We have had to totally change our way of living to accommodate our daughter's affliction. We have had to clean out our home of all cleansers and now use only white vinegar and carb. soda. No more can we use hair spray, most cosmetics, perfumes of any descriptions, detergents etc.. Fortunately, there are some manufacturers who produce unscented toilet rolls or we would be in great trouble! We still make mistakes and bring in things which cause my daughter to have an exposure and then have to watch her fall into the dreadful fatigue which is the main effect of this awful illness.

I said before that I was proud of my daughter and her achievements but never have I felt such a feeling of pride in the way she has conducted herself throughout the ordeal of the past seven years and the treatments and the pain and the frustrations and the indignities she has had to endure. And endure them she has with the utmost dignity and courage. She said to me recently that the cancer and the treatment were nothing compared to the effects of the chemical sensitivity. This is the hardest cross she has had to bear.

I just hope and pray that we can help to make our daughter's life a little more comfortable in the future by being vigilant about what we bring into her environment and assisting her to find some peace and tranquillity.