

APPENDIX C:

LETTER RECEIVED FROM WESTERN DIAGNOSTICS CONCERNING BLOOD LEAD LEVEL TESTING



**Western
Diagnostic
Pathology**

74 McCoy Street Myaree
Western Australia 6154 Australia
Telephone (08) 9317 0999
General Fax (08) 9317 1536
Admin Fax (08) 9317 1572

07/08/03

Professor [REDACTED]
Expert Committee to Review SAS Health Issues

GPO Box 1014
Brisbane
QLD 4001

Re : Letter of 26th June 2003

Dear Professor [REDACTED],

A review of Western Diagnostic Pathology's database has shown that we have performed 33 lead analyses on army personnel between May 1992 and January 2001. We are unable to ascertain whether these are from SAS regiment personnel in particular.

The analyses for both red cell lead levels and whole blood lead levels were performed using a Furnace Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AA). This method was the standard method of the time and has been in use for medical and commercial (lead exposure) lead testing up until May 2003. It has been superseded by a ICPMS.

The episodes fall into three reporting groups. The report formats and the patient episodes extracted are attached.

Whole Blood Lead (Report format A) with a reference range and occupationally exposure limits.

Red Cell Lead (Report Format B) with a reference range and occupationally exposure limits.

Whole Blood Lead (Report Format C) with a reference range and Worksafe WA limits.

The reference range is the limit one would normally be expected to be found in 95% of an unexposed population. The reports therefore give two ranges, for exposed and unexposed populations.

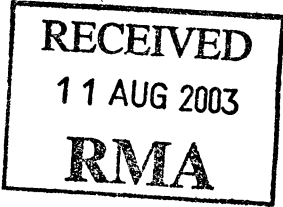
The Worksafe WA criteria are different than the Worksafe Australia guidelines.

Action to be taken	WA limits	Worksafe Australia	
Testing every six months	< 30	< 30	ug/100mL
Three months	30 - 49	30 - 40	ug/100mL
Six weeks		40 - 50	ug/100mL
One month	50 - 60		ug/100mL
Removal from workplace	> 60	> 50	ug/100mL

If you require any further information, please let me know

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Chief Scientist Biochemistry



Report Formats

A : Blood Lead and Exposed Individuals Ranges

```
Connected to: path-wdp
Request: 96 -1166438 LE 0 [REDACTED] 31/07/1960
ARMP -ARMY MEDICAL OFF 2 [REDACTED] 07/02/1996
Blood Lead . . . . . : < 1 ug/100nL (< 25)

Occupationally Exposed Individuals
Acceptable < 40
Elevated 40 - 60
Excessive > 60

[U]p, [D]own, [F]orward, [B]ackward, [N]ext_report, [Q]uit
```

B : Red Cell Lead and Exposed Individuals Ranges

```
Request: 93 -604082 LE 0 [REDACTED] 07/03/1956
ARMP -ARMY MEDICAL OFF [REDACTED] 24/11/1993
Red Cell Lead . . . . . : 1.5 umol/L RBC (< 3.1)

Exposed Individuals
Acceptable 3-6 umol/L RBC
Excessive 6-8 umol/L RBC
Dangerous > 8 umol/L RBC

[U]p, [D]own, [F]orward, [B]ackward, [N]ext_report, [Q]uit
```

C : Blood Lead and WA Worksafe Guidelines

The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "Connected to: path-wdp". The terminal displays the following information:

Request: 99 -4918312 LE 0 [REDACTED] 20/04/1966
ARMD -ARMY MEDICAL OFF [REDACTED] W 10/11/1999

Blood Lead. : 2 ug/100nL (< 25)

Report all levels to Worksafe W.A.

Worksafe W.A. Guidelines	Action	*
< 30	Repeat test in 6 months	
30 - 49	Repeat test in 3 months	
50 - 59	Repeat test in 1 month	
> 60	Removal from lead work, medical examination, repeat test in 1 month. Return to work when < 40	

At the bottom of the terminal, there is a command prompt with the following options: [u]lp, [d]own, [f]orward, [B]ackward, [N]ext_report, [Q]uit

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button and several open applications: AVIEW, AVICLNT, AV Image, Microsoft E..., Connect..., and Microsoft. The system clock shows 13:28.

Army Referrals under codes ARMD, ARMW and ARM ARMP

Date of Service Lab. Number Report Format

26-May-92	186734	B
24-Nov-93	604082	B
24-May-94	279386	A
26-Apr-95	136206	A
07-Oct-93	514369	B
07-Oct-93	514370	B
07-Oct-93	514371	B
07-Oct-93	514378	B
07-Oct-93	514380	B
07-Oct-93	514381	B
07-Feb-96	1166438	A
07-Feb-96	1166440	A
07-Feb-96	1166442	A
07-Feb-96	1166443	A
07-Feb-96	1166444	A
07-Feb-96	1166445	A
08-Feb-96	1166577	A
12-Feb-96	1167145	A
12-Feb-96	1167146	A
12-Feb-96	1167147	A
12-Feb-96	1167148	A
14-Feb-96	1167533	A
26-Aug-96	1617658	A
28-Aug-96	1618064	A
28-Aug-96	1618066	A
28-Aug-96	1618070	A
28-Aug-96	1618077	A
28-Aug-96	1618078	A
28-Aug-96	1618079	A
28-Aug-96	1618080	A
25-Feb-97	2200342	A
25-Feb-97	2200343	A
10-Nov-99	4918312	C
25-Jan-01	6078691	C

Format A Blood Lead - Occupationally Exposed Individuals
Format B Red Cell Lead - Occupationally Exposed Individuals
Format C WA Worksafe guidelines