

I live 1.2 kilometres from Teys Australia Beenleigh and I Have Q Fever!

Interview with Mr X 31/7/2012

In late July 2012, I received an email from a gentleman living in Beenleigh, one street off Boundary Road, after he had read one of my pamphlets .

On Tuesday 31 July we met and the following transcript is part of his story. I cannot reveal his real name due to legal reasons

*LT – Louis Toumbas – Nurse – a registered nurse who cannot give her name due to legal reasons.
Mr X – Victim who cannot give name due to legal reasons.*

LT - My name is Louis Toumbas, I own the property across from Teys, have read the website www.teysbeenleighdanger.com ?

Nurse -yes

Mr X - yes

LT - Have I ever met you guys before?

Mr X - Not until about a few minutes ago.

LT - Can you tell me when you got Q fever?

Mr X - I'll look at the paperwork, I'll just grab my glasses.

LT - What I've found most disturbing is that nobody cares and no body knows.

Nurse - Even the infectious disease people said to Mr X " you haven't got Q fever.

Mr X - I was admitted into Logan Hospital on the 13 of the fifth 2008 and discharged on the 22nd of the fifth 2008.

LT - Can you explain to me what happened? What led up to your admission to hospital?

Mr X - I was driving trucks, doing earthworks at Browns Plains carting dirt or fill from Browns Plains to Pinkenbar to our depot there.

And I started getting headaches, running a fever, I was taking aspirin and anything I could, to try and get rid of the headaches.

I got to the stage one day I took two loads out of Browns Plains, I was sitting in my truck, I rang my boss and said look, I shouldn't be on the road, I took the truck back to the yard and that's it, I'm going home, I'm going to the doctors.

I rang my son (who is no longer with us) and got him to get an appointment with the doctor.

I went to the doctors, he checked me over and sent me straight to Logan Hospital

I ended up in Logan Hospital, they admitted me, they didn't really know what they were treating, because of all the amount of aspirin and everything I was taking, I developed a stomach ulcer which ruptured, I had 2 gastos done, down the throat, the second was to overstay the ulcers, which still didn't get rid of the temperatures and the headaches.

So then they started investigating further and it was of the young interns, that after they tested me for everything possible that they could think of, suggested that maybe they should test for Q fever. Everyone laughed at him, and it came back as a positive, so they belted me with a big dose of antibiotics and about 4 days later, I was able to go home, which still required antibiotics for about 4 months to get rid of it.

But since then fatigue has absolutely destroyed me, I can't, even, with the medication I'm on.

My doctors told me I can go back to work with medications and drive without any problems but 2 or 3 hours, 4 hours I'm steeped I gotta lay down and sleep, I'm absolutely shot to pieces.

Nurse - because he's been on, because he's been taking medication for the stomach ulcers, he's developed Vitamin B12 deficiencies because his body is not absorbing Vitamin B12, so every 2 weeks he has to go and get a injection and basically by the end of about day 10, you could say he's sleeping probably about 18 hours of the day

LT - Your a nurse

Nurse - Yes

LT - were you working at the Hospital in 2008?

Nurse - I had just started, I was working at Logan, Yes.

LT - Was there no understanding about Q fever?

Nurse - No, None whatsoever, In fact I had nursed my first Q fever patient and I've been working as a registered nurse, for, since 1973 and I've been working as a nurse ever since. But basically my first was a week before Mr X developed Q fever, we had a patient from on of the other wards that had Q fever.

LT - And where was he living? Where did he live?

Nurse - He worked in the industrial estate, at Beenleigh

Mr X - At Holmview

Nurse - At Holmview, next to Teys, and I nursed another guy that was a truck driver, but I don't know, where he lived or whatever, but I have seen a few people since.

LT - With Q fever?

Nurse - Come through with Q fever.

LT - You would think the Logan Hospital would report this to the Health Department and do something about it.

Nurse - It did go to the Health Department

Mr X - Mine did

Nurse - It went to the Health Department, It went to Infectious diseases, but nothing. They rang and told Mr X that maybe he got it from recycled water?

LT - Mr X, during that time 2008-2007, from what I understand, I'm not a Q fever expert, but I want to try and understand as much as I can.

From the information I read, there are two types of Q fever, There is a Acute Q fever..

Nurse - His was Acute, now its gone to Chronic

LT - Chronic that's right.

Nurse - Now it's gone to chronic because he's had a relapse since

LT - Can I ask you, before you went to hospital, did you hang around any animals?

Mr X - No

LT - Did your job involve you with animals

Mr X - No, none whatsoever, our work was mainly earthworks... (*Talks about his Job*).....prior to the infection that's virtually all I did, every day

LT - OK

Mr X - We carted fill from.....*more work info*.....

LT- During that time since you moved here in 2002, could you smell anything from the Teys Abattoir?

Mr X - Regularly

Nurse - Yes

Mr X - mainly of an evening

Nurse - And the discharge is horrendous, I drive past there, I finish work at 11, I actually turn my air-conditioning to recycle at the tip of the hill at Teys Brothers because I know I'm going to get it by the time I'm in front of it, one time I forgot and wow man the stink is terrible.

Mr X - If you drive past the gateway at Teys Brothers, up the hill towards Gardener Road, between Teys Road and Gardener Road, and there's a constant stream of cattle waste, cattle shit on the road everywhere, so that been kicked up, once it dries, it's kicked up, so those trucks aren't been washed out on premise or cleaned before they leave, so there is no cattle faeces or anything been left and it's deposited on the road. The department of transport is not doing their job because they should be booking those drivers for contaminating the road, because if we had water coming out the back of our trucks carting rocks and everything, they'd book us for discharging on a public road, so why isn't it happening here.

LT - Mr X, do you work at the moment?

Mr X - No I don't, I can't, I can't take a job cause I can't do more than 2 or 3 hours

Nurse - He went back for 12 months and at the end of the 12 months he was..

Mr X - Shattered

Nurse - He said, I can't, I just can't work any-more

LT - Can I ask you, did you know anything about this until you read my website

Mr X - The only thing I knew about, was what Q fever was (a disease), and one of the questions the infectious control officer asked, was where I lived, what industries were in the area.

I said there was a slaughter yard and industrial park Holmview and they said you can get Q fever from cattle and they started rattling off.

But I have never been involved of any of that, never in my life, prior to coming here, moving to Queensland, I carted slag out of BHP*continues his work history as a truck driver.....*

I've had nothing to do with cattle!