

FROM : CLAYTON UTE
TO : TOBACCO INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

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Dr. Breslin gave evidence in chief concerning asthma. The thrust of his evidence was that asthma only existed when airways narrowing was accompanied by the symptoms of an asthma attack. Passive smoking was described as a trigger of such symptoms and by implication caused asthma. The witness summarized the studies available in the literature. When doing so he stated that there are "very few studies in the literature looking at this subject" which was relevant to our contention that there is "little" evidence. The witness concurred in his concluding remarks with the view expressed in the NH ANRC Report that:

"there is sufficient data to indicate that asthmatics may suffer significant acute effects following exposure to passive smoke. Those susceptible individuals with airways hyper-reactivity or atopy but not clinically asthmatic in particular should be investigated for the effects of passive smoking".

In conclusion he said: "their asthma is caused by passive smoking - that is their attacks are caused".

Dr. Breslin was then cross-examined. He was cross-examined on his definition of asthma - it being put to him that asthma was the underlying condition rather than a disease which was present only when the sufferer had an attack. Dr. Breslin adhered to his definition. Dr. Breslin was then cross-examined on the studies relied upon by him. The cross examination is incomplete but proceeding satisfactorily.

During cross-examination His Honour made remarks which clearly indicate that he understands that the issue between the

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P. 4

contend that an asthma attack is not disease whereas Dr. Breglin contends that an asthma attack is disease.

There were no journalists present during the hearing.

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G.D. Eggleton

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