

10-1-15

s 47F - privacy

Commonwealth Department of Health  
Commonwealth Centre  
Cnr Spring and Latrobe Streets  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Attention: s 47F - privacy

Attached is a statement prepared by s 47F - privacy  
s 47F - privacy on the building occupied by the Laboratory in the grounds of the  
University of Melbourne.

Will you please forward a copy of the Statement to Department of Housing and  
Construction and arrange for that Department to carry out the work proposed in  
discussions s 47F - privacy

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ENCL

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*and you on 11/12/81  
on 25/12 1981  
12/12*

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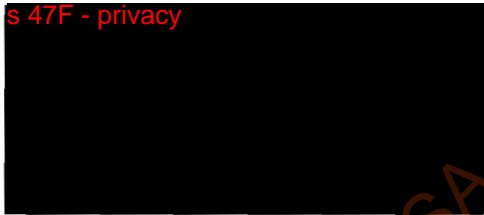
Construction given by the University premises REGISTERED  
on 25/12 and then in planning to visit Uni on 25/12, PM.  
I will forward quote to his office in due course. *with 25/12/81*  
Please advise of any changes to the quote.

STATEMENT ON BUILDING OCCUPIED BY THE AUSTRALIAN RADIATION  
LABORATORY IN THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY GROUNDS

In 1938, a building was erected in the Melbourne University grounds for use by the Australian Radiation Laboratory. This was occupied until late 1979, when the Laboratory was transferred to new premises at Yallambie. Because manipulations with radioactive sources had been carried out in one section of the building, it had been proposed to demolish that section and subsequently to restore it to good order so that the building could be occupied by the Melbourne University. Prior to making the building ready for modification, a complete radiation survey of the entire building was undertaken to ensure that it was in satisfactory condition. This survey showed a number of small areas in which radioactive contamination had become fixed in flooring, walls etc. As such, that contamination created no health hazard to occupants of and visitors to the building.

In order to overcome any apprehension by persons working in the building after it had been completely vacated by the Laboratory, it was considered desirable that attempts be made to remove all the fixed contamination existing in the building. A thorough clean-up exercise was mounted in the building and this involved the partial removal of floors, wall surfacing etc. Following this action a final radiation survey was undertaken and this showed any remaining contamination to be far below levels considered clean by international standards. The result of the clean-up is that it became unnecessary to carry out the proposed demolition. All waste material arising from the clean-up has been removed from the building. The building is therefore declared to be clean, in accordance with international standards. There would be no health hazards that could be attributed to past activities carried out within the building.

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