



F-111 deseal/reseal and other fuel tank maintenance workers

Overview of benefits and schemes for F-111 workers

Overview

This Factsheet provides an overview of the benefits and services available to eligible F-111 deseal/reseal and other fuel tank maintenance workers. It provides information about the health care and compensation you can access if you are recognised as an F-111 deseal/reseal or other fuel tank maintenance worker. It also provides information about the ex-gratia payments scheme for certain F-111 workers.

Who is an F-111 deseal/reseal or other fuel tank maintenance worker?

An F-111 deseal/reseal or other fuel tank maintenance worker is someone who has had Tier 1, 2 or 3 classification confirmed.

Tier classification is a rating that reflects a worker's level of involvement in F-111 fuel tank maintenance activities. Classification is based on Tier definitions, developed by the Department of Defence and DVA, which specify the exact types of fuel tank maintenance work, and associated tasks, including duration.

Entitlements for F-111 deseal/reseal and other fuel tank maintenance workers

Tier 1, 2 or 3 personnel are entitled to access compensation, health care and counselling.

Tier 1 and 2 personnel are also entitled to a lump sum payment under the ex-gratia scheme.

All F-111 personnel, including certain personnel who do not meet any Tier definitions, are entitled to health care and counselling for certain illnesses or conditions under the Study of Health Outcomes in Aircraft Maintenance Personnel (SHOAMP) Health Care Scheme (SHCS). The F-111 website's health care pages outline the health care benefits available and the eligibility requirements. Please see <http://f111.dva.gov.au>.

The F-111 SHCS has its own entrance ratings (Group 1 and Group 2) but these are not part of the Tier definitions or ratings. Group ratings provide access to health care and counselling.

F-111 personnel without Tier classification can also claim compensation under general legislative provisions – under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) and/or under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRCA).

Overview of benefits and schemes for F-111 workers, *continued*

How do I have my Tier classification or my Group status determined?

You can apply to have your Tier classification or Group status determined, by completing the D9021 *Application for Tier Classification* form. See Factsheet F111-02 – *Tier definitions* for more information.

What can I claim compensation for?

You (or the estate, for certain deceased F-111 persons) can claim compensation for any illness or disease that you or the family believe is related to your military service. Depending on the type of service you have, you may claim under the SRCA and/or the VEA, or the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA)*.

For claims relating to F-111 service, you need to first apply for a Tier classification. If you are classified a Tier 1, 2 or 3 you can claim for compensation and health care for any of 31 conditions which are accepted as being related to F-111 fuel tank maintenance work - ie, the Government accepts liability without needing to find a link between your service and the illness. (However, medical evidence that you have the illness is required and this may need specialist medical evidence). These 31 conditions can be claimed under a special provision, subsection 7(2), of the SRCA .

You can, of course, also claim for any condition not on the list which you believe is related to your F-111 fuel tank maintenance work. These claims will be decided under the general provisions of the VEA or the SRCA – ie, the condition has to be accepted as related to your service.

Evidence and Statutory Declarations

In gathering evidence to support an application for Tier classification, or to support any subsequent claims for health care, compensation, or ex gratia payments, you will be asked for documentary evidence regarding your F-111 employment. When considering your Tier application and claims, DVA will take into account official Australian Defence Force records including your service records and PMKeyS data.

Where official documentary evidence is not available, and in the absence of evidence to the contrary, a statutory declaration confirming your involvement in eligible F-111 work can be provided as evidence. A second corroborating statutory declaration signed by an *authorised person*, will also assist as evidence in your claim.

More information about what to provide in a statutory declaration, and who can witness them, is available in Factsheet F111- 05 *Statutory Declarations*. There are also *Statutory Declaration Guidelines* on the F-111 website.

Overview of benefits and schemes for F-111 workers, *continued*

What can I receive health care for?

Once your Tier classification and/or Group status is determined, you can receive health care under the SHCS for a number of specified conditions if you have lodged a claim for compensation for these conditions. Factsheet F-111-07 – *The SHOAMP Health Care Scheme – Services Available* refers.

Health care is provided under the SHCS until your claim is determined. If your claim is accepted, your health care will be provided under the SRCA or the VEA; (whichever Act your claim is accepted under).

If your claim is rejected, continuing health care may still be provided under the SHCS in certain circumstances. Factsheet F-111 08: *SHOAMP Eligibility* refers.

What counselling am I entitled to?

If you are a Tier 1, 2 or 3 (ie, Group 1 for the Health Care Scheme); or a Group 2 (ie, no Tier classification but Group 2 for the Health Care Scheme) you can receive confidential counselling from the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS), paid for under the Health Care Scheme.

What is the ex-gratia lump sum payment scheme?

The ex-gratia scheme provides a one-off lump sum payment, in recognition of the unique working environment of personnel undertaking the RAAF's 'formal' deseal/reseal programs. This is not compensation for illness or disease - ie, you don't have to be sick to get this payment.

The ex-gratia payments scheme is available to any person classified as Tier 1 or Tier 2.

The estates of deceased workers can also apply for Tier classification and receive the ex-gratia payment (if the deceased person's work makes them eligible).

Tier 1 classified persons receive a lump sum payment of \$40,000 and Tier 2 classified persons receive a lump sum payment of \$10,000.

What conditions are included in subsection 7(2) of the SRCA and the SHOAMP Health Care Scheme?

The following is a list of the 31 conditions, identified following the SHOAMP, and accepted as being related to F-111 deseal/reseal service. Liability for these conditions is accepted automatically under subsection 7(2) of the SRCA, and health treatment is provided under the SHCS.

Overview of benefits and schemes for F-111 workers, *continued*

- Acquired colour vision deficiency
- Agoraphobia with panic disorder
- Alcohol and drug dependency {only under health care scheme, but not through the special provisions of SRCA 7(2)}
- Anxiety
- Bi-polar affective disorder
- Bowel polyps
- Cauda equina syndrome
- Depression
- Diverticulitis
- Dysplastic naevus
- Eczema/dermatitis
- Erectile dysfunction
- Impaired cognition
- Irritable bowel disorder
- Liver disease
- Malignant neoplasms (ie, various forms of cancer)
- Memory loss
- Mixed connective tissue disease
- Myeloproliferative disorders
- Multiple sclerosis
- Neurogenic bladder
- Non-alcoholic toxic encephalopathy
- Pancreatic disease
- Panic disorders
- Parkinson's disease
- Peripheral neuropathy
- Sarcoidosis
- Sleep disorders with neurological basis
- Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)
- Spinal muscular atrophy
- Ulcerative colitis/Crohn's disease
- Vertigo

When making a claim for any of these conditions, please provide any medical evidence you have of the diagnosis.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this Factsheet is general in nature and does not take into account individual circumstances. You should not make important decisions, such as those that affect your financial or lifestyle position, e.g. retirement, on the basis of information contained in this Factsheet. Where you are required to lodge a written claim for a benefit, you must take full responsibility for your decisions prior to the written claim being determined. You should seek confirmation in writing of any oral advice you receive from DVA relating to complex or important matters.

Overview of benefits and schemes for F-111 workers, *continued*

Other related F-111 factsheets

- F-111 02: **Tier definitions**
- F-111 03: **Government Response to the Parliamentary Inquiry**
- F-111 04: **Compensation and SRCA ss7(2)**
- F-111 05: **Statutory declarations**
- F-111 06: **Ex gratia payments**
- F-111 07: **SHOAMP Health Care Scheme – services**
- F-111 08: **SHOAMP Health Care Scheme – eligibility**
- F-111 09: **Better Health Program**
- F-111 10: **Reimbursement for health care treatment costs**

Contacts

DVA F-111 Tier classification and compensation team

Phone: **1800 555 323**

SHOAMP Health Care Scheme/ Better Health Program

Phone: **1800 728 007**

WorkCover Queensland

Phone: **1300 362 128**

Comcare

Phone: **1300 366 979**

Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS)

Phone: **1800 011 046**

Military Compensation and Claims Liaison Office (CCLO)

Phone: **1800 558 022**

Commonwealth Ombudsman

Phone: **1300 362 072**

More information

All DVA Factsheets are available from DVA offices, and on the DVA website at www.dva.gov.au.

You can phone DVA for the cost of a local call* on **133 254** or free call **1800 555 254** if you are outside a major city.

*Note: * Use a normal landline phone if you can. Mobile phone calls may cost you more.*

You can phone the F-111 hotline on **1800 555 323**

You can visit the F-111 website: **f111.dva.gov.au**

You can email us at: **f111enquiries@dva.gov.au**

You can email DVA at: **GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au**.

You can also get more help from any DVA office.