



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

Ex-gratia lump sum payment scheme

Overview

This Factsheet provides information about the ex-gratia lump sum payment scheme and how eligible persons can claim the payment.

What is the ex-gratia scheme?

The ex-gratia scheme was introduced in August 2005 in recognition of the unique working environment experienced by participants during the four *formal* F-111 deseal/reseal programs.

It provides a one-off ex-gratia payment of \$40,000 to personnel who meet the Tier 1 definition and \$10,000 to personnel who meet the Tier 2 definition.

Who is eligible?

A person whose F-111 deseal/reseal, and/or other fuel tank maintenance work, is classified as Tier 1 or as Tier 2, is eligible for the ex-gratia payment.

The executor of the estate of a deceased person whose F-111 work is classified as Tier 1 or Tier 2 can also apply for the payment.

Only one payment can be made to an eligible person (or their estate).

The ex-gratia payments scheme is not available to Tier 3 persons.

What is a Tier classification and how is it obtained?

Tier classification is the rating system that reflects a worker's level of involvement in F-111 fuel tank maintenance activities. Classification ratings are determined using a set of Tier definitions developed by the Department of Defence and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA); (the Table contained in Factsheet F11-02 – *Tier classification and Tier Definitions* refers). Personnel are classified as a Tier 1, 2 or 3 by application of the Tier definitions.

The first step in making any claims for F-111 benefits, (whether for compensation, health care or ex-gratia payments), is to apply for Tier classification. Call **1800 555323** to enquire.

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How do I apply?

You can apply to have your F-111 service classified by completing the D9021 form: *Application for Tier Classification by an F-111 deseal/reseal program participant or F-111 fuel tank entry maintenance worker*. Forms can be downloaded from the DVA F-111 website or obtained from any DVA office.

If you are the executor of the estate of an eligible deceased person, you should complete form D9022 *Application for Tier Classification by the Estate of an F-111 deseal/reseal program participant or F-111 fuel tank entry maintenance worker*.

If service is classified as Tier 1 or Tier 2, payment of the lump sum will be made directly to the nominated bank account.

Right of review

If you are not happy with a decision about how your Tier classification was determined, you may ask for a re-assessment. DVA will only re-assess your Tier classification on the provision of additional evidence. If you are not satisfied with the decision, you may lodge a complaint with the Commonwealth Ombudsman about your claim, at any stage. The Ombudsman will only consider the decision-making **process** that was undertaken and the information that was considered by the Department which resulted in the decision. The Ombudsman cannot review the decision itself.

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.

Other Factsheets

Other Factsheets related to this topic include:

- Factsheet F-111 01: **Overview**
- Factsheet F111-02: Tier Classification and Tier Definitions

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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.