



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

The SHOAMP Health Care Scheme – Services Available

Overview

This Factsheet provides details about services available through the Study of Health Outcomes in Aircraft Maintenance Personnel (SHOAMP) Health Care Scheme.

What is the SHOAMP Health Care Scheme?

The SHOAMP Health Care Scheme is a health care program that provides treatment costs for certain conditions, and counselling services for serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force and civilian personnel who were involved in F-111 deseal/reseal and other fuel tank maintenance work between 1973 and 2000.

Counselling services are also available to immediate family members, and to other personnel employed at RAAF Base Amberley at the time of the F-111 deseal/reseal programs.

People who utilise the Health Care Scheme and/or counselling, are called Group 1 or Group 2 participants.

What services are available under the SHOAMP Health Care Scheme?

Group 1 participants can receive the following services under the SHOAMP Health Care Scheme:

- Medical treatment for a range of conditions while your claim for compensation is being investigated and determined;
- Medical treatment for a range of conditions where compensation has been denied (If your compensation claim is rejected, treatment costs may continue to be covered under the SHOAMP Health Care Scheme, unless it has been determined that:
 - no medical condition was found during the claims investigations process; or
 - your condition does not incapacitate you in any real way; or
 - you have withdrawn your claim for compensation);
- Counselling through the VVCS - Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service, including individual, couple and family counselling;
- Participation in VVCS-coordinated group programs, including the Lifestyle Management Course and Heart Health;
- Participation in the Better Health Program – a cancer screening and disease prevention program; and
- Assistance with the cost of approved travel to attend medical consultations, and VVCS counselling sessions and healthy lifestyle programs.

The SHOAMP Health Care Scheme – Services Available, *continued*

Group 2 participants can receive the following services under the SHOAMP Health Care Scheme:

- Counselling through the VVCS - Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service, including individual, couple and family counselling; and
- Participation in the VVCS-coordinated Lifestyle Management Course.

How do I know if I am eligible?

The SHOAMP Health Care Scheme has two participant categories - Group 1 and Group 2.

Group 1 includes the following – those involved in:

- F-111 deseal/reseal training conducted in Sacramento, USA;
- the formal F-111 deseal/reseal programs;
- regular burning or disposal of F-111 deseal/reseal products;
- ad hoc 'pick and patch' fuel tank maintenance on F-111 aircraft prior to January 2000;
- other maintenance or directly related tasks prior to January 2000 where the work required physical entry to an F-111 fuel tank to conduct that maintenance or task;
- dismantling and/or disposing of canvas from the Air Transportable Deseal/Reseal Hangar (the 'Rag Hangar');
- (those whose) primary place of duty was within the deseal/reseal hangars or the Air Transportable Deseal/Reseal Hangar (the 'Rag Hangar') at Amberley during one or more of the formal deseal/reseal programs;
- work at the Engine Test Cell No 1, during the period 1976 – 1986;
- fuel farm workers and personnel involved in the transport, delivery and handling of F-111 deseal/reseal products including SR51/51A. These workers and personnel must have regularly performed duties of supply and disposal of F-111 deseal/reseal products;
- (being) immersed in the Warrill Creek Settling Pond at RAAF Base Amberley;
- work-experience students at Hawker de Havilland who worked inside the tanks.

Group 2

- Immediate family members of a SHOAMP Health Care Scheme Group 1 participant; or
- Service personnel or civilian employees who are not covered by the above Group 1 definition, but who were employed at RAAF Base Amberley during the F-111 deseal/reseal programs (the 1st and 2nd deseal/reseal programs 1977-82 and 1991-93; the spray seal program 1996-99 and the wings deseal/reseal program 1985-92).

Factsheet F-111 08 – SHOAMP Health Care Scheme - eligibility provides further detail on eligibility.

The SHOAMP Health Care Scheme – Services Available, *continued*

How do I access these services?

If you wish to access VVCS counselling sessions or VVCS group programs, you should call VVCS on 1800 011 046.

If you are a Group 1 participant, the SHOAMP Health Care Scheme can cover the cost of medical treatment for specified conditions. To receive coverage of treatment costs for a condition, you must first lodge a compensation claim for that condition. To lodge a claim, you can contact your relevant statutory compensation authority (DVA, Workcover Queensland or Comcare) for the appropriate form:

- DVA's F-111 compensation hotline: **1800 555 323**; or
- DVA's general number: 133 254; or
- <http://www.dva.gov.au/clientforms> - for form D2020 - Claim for Rehabilitation and Compensation through the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*; or
- WorkCover Queensland: 1300 362 128, <http://www.workcoverqld.com.au>; or
- Comcare: 1300 366 979, <http://www.comcare.gov.au>.

What if my compensation claim is accepted?

The SHOAMP Health Care Scheme will cease paying for treatment of conditions that have been accepted by a statutory compensation scheme (because that scheme will then cover your health care costs).

If a statutory compensation authority (including DVA) accepts liability for one of the conditions covered by the SHOAMP Health Care Scheme, you should speak to that authority about what treatment entitlements are then available to you.

What if my compensation claim is rejected?

If you submit a claim for compensation for any of the conditions covered by the SHOAMP Health Care Scheme and any one of these claimed conditions is not accepted, you may be able to continue receiving treatment for the rejected condition through the SHOAMP Health Care Scheme, unless it has been determined that:

- no medical condition was found during the claims investigations process; or
- your condition does not incapacitate you in any real way; or
- you have withdrawn your claim for compensation.

Call 1800 728 007 for further information about treatment for rejected conditions.

The SHOAMP Health Care Scheme – Services Available, *continued*

List of conditions that can be covered under the SHOAMP Health Care Scheme for Group 1 participants

- Acquired colour vision deficiency
- Agoraphobia with panic disorder
- Alcohol and drug dependence
- Anxiety
- Acquired colour vision deficiency
- Bi-polar affective disorder
- Bowel polyps
- Cauda equina syndrome
- Depression
- Diverticulitis
- Dysplastic naevus
- Eczema/dermatitis
- Erectile dysfunction
- Impaired cognition
- Irritable bowel disorder
- Liver disease (excluding diabetes)
- Malignant neoplasms
- Memory loss
- Mixed connective tissue disease
- Multiple sclerosis
- Myeloproliferative disorders
- Neurogenic bladder
- Non-alcoholic toxic encephalopathy
- Pancreatic disease
- Panic disorders
- Parkinson's disease
- Peripheral neuropathy
- Sarcoidosis
- Sleep disorders with neurological basis
- Spinal muscular atrophy
- Systemic lupus erythematosus
- Ulcerative colitis / Crohn's disease
- Vertigo

How do I access treatment for these conditions?

When you have registered as a Group 1 participant of the SHOAMP Health Care Scheme, you will receive an information brochure to take to your health providers. If you are seeing your General Practitioner (GP) for the first time, make an appointment as usual and take along the health provider information brochure to the consultation. You do not need prior approval to attend a GP consultation.

The SHOAMP Health Care Scheme – Services Available, *continued*

If you wish to see a specialist you will need prior approval – please contact the SHOAMP Health Care Scheme staff on **1800 728 007** to request approval for the consultation. Failure to do so may result in you having to pay for the treatment. Generally, only medical services provided in Australia will be covered by the SHOAMP Health Care Scheme.

The SHOAMP Health Care Scheme staff can make arrangements with your medical provider and pharmacy to invoice the SHOAMP Health Care Scheme directly. Call **1800 728 007** to request this arrangement.

Where can I get further information?

Phone: **1800 728 007**

Email: SHOAMP.healthcarescheme@dva.gov.au. If you intend to send personal information via email please register an 'Authority for secure information pathway' form, available via the F-111 website, at the Forms page.

Web: <http://f111.dva.gov.au>

Mail: SHOAMP Health Care Scheme
GPO Box 9998
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Other Factsheets

Other Factsheets related to this topic include:

- F111-08 **SHOAMP Health Care Scheme – Eligibility**
- F111-09 **Better Health Program**
- F111-10 **Claiming reimbursement of health care and medical expenses**
- F111-02 **Tier definitions**

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.

The SHOAMP Health Care Scheme – Services Available, *continued*

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.