



## SHOAMP SERUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ACTIVITY REPORT 2021

The SHOAMP Serum Management Committee (SMC) is responsible to the Repatriation Commission and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (the Commissions) in terms of its operational activities and will report to the Commissions on the continued storage of the serum samples and any research proposals that seek access to the samples.

The following activities were undertaken by the SMC in 2021:

### Committee meetings

The Committee met;

- 24 March 2021, and
- 11 October 2021

To assist with member availability and convenience, the SMC has transitioned to using a mixed method of face-to-face and online for its meetings.

### Committee membership

The following key membership changes occurred during 2021;

- Mr John Clarkson was appointed to the Committee, as the new representative from the Royal Australian Air Force Association (RAAFA),
- Dr Trish Batchelor (DVA Deputy Chief Health Officer) was appointed to replace the retired Dr Warren Harrex, and
- Ms Susan List-Armitage (QIMR Berghofer) and Ms Caitlin Szigetvari (AIHW) were appointed as observers representing their respective storage providers.

### 2021 Committee Members

Chair	
Mr Donald Spinks AM	Repatriation Commissioner
Members	
Dr Trish Batchelor	Deputy Chief Health Officer, DVA
Dr Victoria Ross	Senior Medical Adviser, Department of Defence
Mr Justin Mein/Ms Jane Stuart	Executive Directors (role share), Strategic Planning Unit, DVA
Mr Geoff Curl	SHOAMP Deseal/ Reseal Support Group
Mr John Clarkson	RAAF Association
Observers	
Ms Susan List-Armitage	QIMR Berghofer
Ms Caitlin Szigetvari	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)
Dr Meredith Tavener	Newcastle University

## **Committee governance**

At the 24 March 2021 meeting, the SMC discussed the need to update the Terms of Reference (TORs).

Following feedback in April 2021 the updated TORs were approved by Commissions in September 2021.

## **Serum Samples**

### ***Access or destruction requests***

No requests to use the SHOAMP data were received during 2021.

No requests for access to the serum samples were received during 2021.

No requests were received from any study participants, for the destruction of their individual samples during 2021.

### ***Transfer and Management of serum samples***

At the 24 March 2021 meeting, the SMC endorsed the selection of QIMR Berghofer as the new serum storage provider.

The Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs Human Research Ethics Committee approved the plan to move the samples as a priority, pending a re-consent/opt-out process to be conducted in 2022.

Freezers and samples were successfully relocated to QIMR Berghofer in November 2021.

A set of Standard Operating Procedures for the management of SHOAMP samples have been developed and provided to QIMR Berghofer.

### ***Stocktake of samples***

At the 24 March 2021 meeting, the SMC agreed that a full stocktake of all serum samples would be required after the transfer of samples from QML Pathology to QIMR Berghofer with Inspections to be conducted at least every two years going forward.

### ***Inspection of samples***

No inspection of the serum samples was conducted during 2021.

An inspection was initially scheduled for December 2021, however due to the movement of samples to QIMR Berghofer happening later than expected, and to allow QIMR Berghofer adequate time to complete their stocktake and finalise the new sample storage arrangements, it was decided to postpone the inspection until 2022.

## **Transfer and Management of data**

### ***De-identified study data***

At the 24 March 2021 meeting, the SMC endorsed a proposal to transfer the de-identified SHOAMP study data from the University of Newcastle to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) for longer-term storage. The de-identified SHOAMP data will be held by AIHW under the DVA – AIHW Memorandum of Understanding.

At the 11 October 2021 meeting, the SMC approved the Data Management Plan prepared by AIHW for the transfer, storage and management of the data.

It is anticipated that the de-identified study data will be transferred by the University of Newcastle to the AIHW in 2022, once all ethics approvals and other arrangements are finalised.

***Data linkage key***

At the 24 March 2021 meeting, the SMC agreed that a third party should be engaged to assist the RAAF Association in its role as the SHOAMP data linkage key custodian. At the 11 October 2021 meeting, the SMC endorsed DVA's recommendation to approach a third party to provide such support services.

DVA commenced a procurement process to approach/appoint the third party and anticipates that the data linkage key could be transferred from the University of Newcastle to the new provider in 2022.