



AUSTRALIAN GULF WAR VETERANS' HEALTH STUDY SERUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE | ACTIVITY REPORT 2024

Background

The Gulf War Serum Management Committee (GWSMC) is responsible to the Repatriation Commission and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (the Commissions) for providing annual reporting on operational activities around the continued management and storage of the Australian Gulf War Veterans' Health Study serum samples and any research proposals that seek access to the serum samples or study data.

Summary of 2024 Activities

A serum-sample inspection was undertaken by the GWSMC in 2024.

Committee Meetings

In accordance with the GWSMC's Terms of Reference, a 2024 meeting was deferred. It is not unprecedented for the GWSMC to defer an annual meeting if business needs do not warrant one.

Committee Members

Some members changed due to DVA staff movements. A new Chair was also welcomed. The members as at 31 December 2024 are listed in the table below.

Chair	
Mr Kahlil FEGAN (DSC, AM)	Repatriation Commissioner
Members	
Dr Anna COLWELL	Deputy Chief Health Officer, DVA
Ms Nadine CLODE	Assistant Secretary, Research Branch, DVA
Dr Victoria ROSS	Senior Medical Advisor for Military Population Health, Joint Health Command, Department of Defence
Mr Mark STEWART-JONES	Naval Association of Australia
Mr David WATTS	Chairman, Gulf War Veterans' Association
Advisers	



Dr Helen KELSALL	Senior Research Fellow, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
Mr Stephen NYGAARD	Medical Scientist, SA Pathology

Committee Governance

No updates were made to the Terms of Reference or internal GWSMC Governance Manual in 2024.

Serum Samples

Inspection

An inspection of the serum samples stored at SA Pathology was conducted in May 2024. Mr David Watts, Dr Anna Colwell, and Mr Daniel D'Menzie (representing Secretariat) attended via video link with Mr Stephen Nygaard (SA Pathology). All attendees completed an inspection report, and no concerns were raised.

Access or Destruction Requests

During 2024, the GWSMC and/or Secretariat did not receive any requests from:

- study participants to access or withdraw their data or serum sample; or
- researchers to use the de-identified study data or serum samples for research purposes.

Contact

For inquiries about this Activity Report, please email the SHOAMP SMC Secretariat at research.partnerships@dva.gov.au.