



## Supporting Australian Defence Force Firefighters

This initiative provides support for Australian Defence Force (ADF) Firefighters who served at RAAF Base Point Cook between 1 January 1957 and 31 December 1986 in recognition of the potential health effects of being exposed to a wide range of hazardous substances.

### Why is this important?

The Government recognises the risks faced by ADF Firefighters who served at RAAF Base Point Cook between 1 January 1957 and 31 December 1986. This group has been directly exposed to a wide range of hazardous (and at times unknown) substances during fire suppression training, at a time when personal protective equipment was not of the same standard available today.

The ADF Firefighter Scheme recognises the potential for a broad range of health effects from these chemical exposures by:

- removing the onus on ADF Firefighters to provide evidence in support of claims for a list of 31 prescribed conditions, noting it can be very difficult – if not impossible – to obtain. This will allow the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to accept claims automatically for any of the conditions listed below;
- expanding on an earlier list of cancers prescribed for ADF Firefighters under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment (Fair Protection for Firefighters) Act 2011* and resolving eligibility issues previously encountered by the group under provisions introduced by that Act;
- providing a preventative health strategy for those with scheme eligibility, including colorectal and melanoma screening as well as participation in a Healthy Lifestyle Program; and
- recognising the potential for the following 31 conditions, including all cancers, to result from exposure to hazardous substances during firefighter training:

Dysplastic Naevus	Cauda Equina Syndrome	Memory Loss	Pancreatic Disease
Eczema / Dermatitis	Neurogenic Bladder	Anxiety	Irritable Bowel Disorder
Multiple Sclerosis	Non-alcoholic Toxic Encephalopathy	Panic Disorders	Ulcerative Colitis/ Crohns Disease
Parkinson's Disease	Acquired Colour Vision Deficiency	Impaired Cognition	Diverticulitis
Peripheral Neuropathy	Depression	Agoraphobia with Panic Disorder	Bowel Polyps
Spinal Muscular Atrophy	Sleep Disorders with Neurogenic Basis	Malignant Neoplasms	Mixed Connective Tissue Disease
Erectile Dysfunction	Bi-polar Affective Disorder	Myeloproliferative Disorders	Systemic Lupus Erythematosus
Vertigo	Liver Disease	Sarcoidosis	

## Who will benefit?

Approximately 300 living ADF Firefighters who undertook training at RAAF Base Point Cook between 1 January 1957 and 31 December 1986 will benefit. To register interest in Scheme, email:

[ADF.FIREFIGHTER.SCHEME@DVA.GOV.AU](mailto:ADF.FIREFIGHTER.SCHEME@DVA.GOV.AU)

## Date of effect?

20 September 2021.