



Addressee

Expansion of VVCS counselling for SHOAMP Health Care Scheme Group 1 participants

I wish to advise you of the expanded counselling and group programs available to you Group 1 participants¹ of the SHOAMP Health Care Scheme and F-111 ex-gratia Tier recipient² from the VVCS –Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service. The SHOAMP Health Care Scheme provides access to health care treatment and counselling services.

VVCS

The VVCS provides counselling and group programs to Australian veterans, peacekeepers and eligible F-111 maintenance workers and their families. It is a specialised, free and confidential Australia-wide service. VVCS staff are qualified psychologists and social workers with experience in working with veterans, peacekeepers and their families.

Counselling

Previously, you were eligible to access ongoing general counselling³ and three genetic counselling sessions through VVCS. This service is expanded and all SHOAMP Health Care Scheme participants can now access counselling sessions on a clinical needs basis for issues and conditions linked to your involvement in the F-111 deseal/reseal or fuel tank maintenance programs.

The counselling is confidential and no details are passed on to the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The VVCS is located nationally, and centre locations are detailed at the end of this letter. VVCS also has a network of contracted counsellors to provide services across Australia. If you wish to make an appointment for counselling, you can contact VVCS anywhere in Australia on **1800 011 046**.

¹ Group 1 participants: Personnel involved in F-111 aircraft deseal/reseal or fuel tank maintenance programs. Group 2 participants: Immediate family members of Group 1 participants, as well as personnel who were employed at RAAF Base Amberley during the F-111 deseal/reseal programs.

² F-111 deseal/reseal and aircraft maintenance workers have been classified as Tier 1, 2 and 3 ex-gratia recipients based on their level of involvement in the F-111 programs.

³ General counselling offered by VVCS includes individual, couple and family counselling to assist with understanding and addressing a range of personal and emotional problems, including ongoing service-related stresses and the impact on families.

F-111 Residential Lifestyle Program

This is a four-day residential program designed to provide participants and their partners with opportunities to meet others who may have experienced similar effects resulting from exposure to chemicals used in the deseal/reseal and F-111 aircraft maintenance programs. The Lifestyle program provides a combination of information and skills building sessions covering a multitude of topics including relationships, communication, anger management, self esteem and stress management. It is conducted by facilitators who are knowledgeable and skilled in each area.

The F-111 Residential Lifestyle Program is available to eligible F-111 workers and their partners. Those who attended an F-111 Lifestyle program prior to the expansion of services in November 2010 may participate once in the reviewed F-111 Residential Lifestyle Program.

The F-111 Residential Lifestyle Program will be held in locations around Australia according to demand. Programs have initially been planned for Carrara, Gold Coast from 28-31 March 2011 and Forrester's Beach, New South Wales from 4-7 April 2011.

If you are interested in attending either of these programs or a future program in your area, please complete the enclosed Expression of Interest form and return it in the reply paid envelope provided by 21 February 2010.

Other Group Programs

VVCS offers a range of other group programs. For further information please contact VVCS or visit the VVCS website at http://www.dva.gov.au/health_and_wellbeing/health_programs/vvcs/Pages/index.aspx

To contact the VVCS, please call **1800 011 046**. If you have not attended counselling at the VVCS before, please present this letter to VVCS staff as proof of eligibility.

If you require further information about the SHOAMP Health Care Scheme, please call **1800 728 007**.

Yours sincerely



Neil Bayles
National Manager
F-111 Implementation

9 February 2011

Enclosure:

1. Expression of Interest form for F-111 Lifestyle Management Program
2. VVCS reply paid envelope

Expression of Interest for F-111 Lifestyle Management Program

If you are interested and free to attend one of the F-111 Residential Lifestyle Management Programs scheduled for March/April 2011 or future programs in your area, please return this form to VVCS in the reply paid envelope provided by **Monday 21 February, 2011.**

VVCS will contact you to discuss your availability and any special requirements that you may have.

TITLE _____

SURNAME _____

FIRST NAME _____

Is it OK for VVCS to write to you at this address? **YES / NO**

ADDRESS _____

_____ State _____ Postcode _____

EMAIL _____

PARTNER'S NAME _____

Please only provide contact numbers if you give VVCS permission to use
(Tick box if OK to leave a message)

DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER _____

MOBILE NUMBER _____

LOCATION OF PROGRAM (if known): _____

If you have any questions, you can contact VVCS on **1800 011 046***

*Free local call. Calls from mobile phones and pay phones may incur charges.

Please return this form in the reply paid envelope provided

VVCS Office Locations

VVCS office	Location
Adelaide	99 Frome Street Adelaide SA 5000
Albury/Wodonga	81 Hume Street Wodonga VIC 3690
Brisbane	15 Astor Terrace Spring Hill QLD 4000
Canberra	6-8 Campion Street Deakin ACT 2600
Darwin	Civic Plaza, Ground Floor 2 Chung Wah Terrace Palmerston NT 0830
Hobart	254-286 Liverpool St Hobart TAS 7000
Launceston	29 Elphin Road Launceston TAS 7250
Lismore	Office 6, Level 2, Conway Court (Entrance: Molesworth St) 17 Conway Street Lismore NSW 2480
Maroochydore	129 Horton Parade Maroochydore QLD 4558
Melbourne	Level 4, 440 Elizabeth Street Melbourne VIC 3000
Newcastle	Unit 1/8 Auckland Street Newcastle NSW 2300
Perth	7 Kintail Road Applecross WA 6153
Southport	12 Short Street Southport QLD 4215
Sydney	88 Philip Street, Ground Floor Parramatta NSW 2150
Townsville	Nathan Business Centre 340 Ross River Road Cranbrook QLD 4814