



Dear

Expansion of VVCS counselling for SHOAMP Health Care Scheme Group 2 participants

In response to the Parliamentary Inquiry report, *Sealing a just outcome: Report from the Inquiry into the RAAF F-111 Deseal/Reseal workers and their families*, the Department of Veterans' Affairs reviewed the services available to personnel affected by their involvement in the maintenance of the F-111 aircraft. As part of this review, the counselling services available through the SHOAMP Health Care Scheme are expanded.

Under the previous system, Group 2 participants¹, including yourself, were eligible to access five general and three genetic counselling sessions² through the VVCS – the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service. This service is expanded and all SHOAMP Health Care Scheme participants can now access VVCS-facilitated group programs as well as counselling sessions on a clinical needs basis for issues and conditions linked to involvement in the F-111 deseal/reseal or fuel tank maintenance programs.

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.

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. Attached is a list of VVCS Office locations. VVCS provides counselling services at these locations, and also has a network of contracted counsellors to provide services across Australia.

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
15 December 2010

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 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.

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