

FACT SHEET

JET FUEL EXPOSURE STUDY

The purpose of the Jet Fuel Exposure Syndrome (JFES) study was to investigate whether any changes in cell biology could be found that might help explain some of the health effects in former F-111 deseal/reseal workers.

The \$3 million JFES study was commissioned and funded by the Department of Defence and undertaken by the Mater Medical Research Institute in Brisbane. The study utilised the latest university and medical research technologies into molecular and genetic aspects of cell biology.

The study found minor adverse cellular effects from JP8 fuel, predominantly from the kerosene component. However, the clinical significance and the relationship between the amount of exposure and cellular changes could not be determined. These findings were consistent with other recently reported studies.

The specific deseal/reseal solvents (SR51 and SR51A) demonstrated significantly lesser toxicity than jet fuel components.

The study did not find any evidence of genetic or chromosomal damage in cells exposed to JP8 fuel or the deseal/reseal solvents.

Exposed veterans should be reassured that changes to cellular functions detected are not expected to have immediate or adverse effects on their health. The clinical significance and relationship of these changes to the degree of exposure is unable to be determined at this stage.

Defence will continue to implement practical measures, such as safe systems of work and the use of protective equipment, to minimise exposure to JP8 fuel and its components.

Defence will consider long term monitoring of its members who are, or have been, occupationally exposed to fuels and solvents.