



SHOAMP SERUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ACTIVITY REPORT 2013 - 2020

The SHOAMP Serum Management Committee (SHOAMP SMC) is responsible to the Repatriation Commission and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (the Commissions) in terms of its operational activities and will report to the Commissions on the continued storage of the serum samples and any research proposals that seek access to the samples.

The following activities were undertaken by the SHOAMP SMC between 2013 and 2020:

Committee meetings

The Committee met in Canberra and via teleconference on 14 August 2013.

Committee membership

There were no changes to the Committee during this period.

Committee governance

At the 2013 meeting, the Committee agreed on amendments to four of the Standard Operation Procedures and the Terms of Reference. It was noted that further review may be required.

Study data

No requests for the use of SHOAMP data were received during 2013-2020.

Serum samples

Requests for access to samples

No requests for access to the serum samples were received between 2013 and 2020.

Requests for destruction of individual samples

Between 2013 and 2020 no requests were received from any study participants, for the destruction of their individual samples.

Inspection of samples

An inspection of the serum samples was undertaken on 16 July 2013. The Guthrie cards and data register were not able to be sighted as they were in the Manager's locked office. The uninterruptable power supply (UPS) was also not able to be checked. The Committee requested that the back-up power systems be checked at the time of the next inspection.

An inspection of the serum samples was undertaken on 23 September 2014. At this inspection, a check of the back-up systems was undertaken and the Guthrie cards and data register were sighted. The members attending noted that the samples had been transferred to a different location in the main laboratory. The members attending were satisfied with the storage arrangements and maintenance.

At the 2013 meeting, the Committee discussed whether to conduct an audit of the samples. They concluded that an audit was not necessary, as there had not been a change in storage management and there had been no requests for access to the samples or for destruction of any individual's samples.

Storage of samples

In 2018 one of the two Ultra Low Temperature (ULT) freezers used to store the samples developed a fault and was replaced with a new freezer.

In 2020, in response to advice from the current storage provider that they would prefer not to further extend their contract, DVA commenced a procurement process to identify a new storage provider to recommend to the Serum Management Committee.