



## **SHOAMP SERUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ACTIVITY REPORT 2022**

### **Background**

The Study of Health Outcomes in Aircraft Maintenance Personnel (SHOAMP) Serum Management Committee (SMC) reports to both the Repatriation Commission and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (the Commissions) about its operational activities, including the continued storage of serum samples and associated issues, as well as any research proposals or individual study participants who seek access to the samples.

### **Summary of 2022 Activities**

The following activities were undertaken by the SHOAMP SMC in 2022 and are discussed in more detail below.

- Committee meeting.
- Committee membership updates.
- Stocktake of serum samples.
- Inspection of serum samples.
- Transfer of de-identified study data.
- Identification of new data-linkage key storage-and-support provider.

### **Committee Meetings**

The SMC met once in 2022 on 1 December, via online video conference.

Membership remained stable, noting that personnel changes within DVA have seen Ms Alison Hale (Assistant Secretary, Community Policy Branch) joining the Committee in 2022, replacing Mr Justin Mein and Ms Jane Stuart (Executive Directors, Strategic Planning Unit, DVA).

## Committee Members

Chair	
<b>Mr Don SPINKS AM</b>	Repatriation Commissioner
Members	
<b>Dr Trish BATCHELOR</b>	Deputy Chief Health Officer, DVA
<b>Mr John CLARKSON</b>	Delegate, Air Force Association (AFA)
<b>Mr Geoff CURL</b>	Delegate, SHOAMP Deseal—Reseal Support Group
<b>Ms Alison HALE</b>	Assistant Secretary, Community Policy Branch, DVA
<b>Dr Victoria ROSS</b>	Senior Medical Advisor, Military Population Health, Joint Health Command, Department of Defence
Advisers	
<b>Ms Susan LIST-ARMITAGE</b>	Sample Processing Manager, QIMR Berghofer
<b>Ms Caitlin SZIGETVARI</b>	Unit Head, Veterans' Insights & Projects Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
<b>Dr Meredith TAVENER</b>	Senior Lecturer, The University of Newcastle

## Serum Samples

### [Access or destruction requests](#)

During 2022, no requests were received:

- to use the SHOAMP data;
- to access the serum samples; or
- from any study participants for the destruction of their individual samples.

### [Stocktake](#)

Following the November 2021 transfer of samples from QML Pathology to QIMR Berghofer, a stocktake of samples was completed by QIMR Berghofer in May 2022. A report was produced documenting the outcome of the stocktake and tabled at the 1 December 2022 SMC meeting.

### [Inspection](#)

Following the stocktake, an onsite sample inspection was conducted at QIMR Berghofer on 31 May 2022. In attendance were:

- Mr John Clarkson, AFA (SMC member)
- Dr Nick Shortt, DVA (proxy for SMC member Dr Trish Batchelor)
- Mr Ryan Nash, DVA (representing Veteran and Family Policy Division).

### **Transfer of De-Identified Data**

The de-identified study data was transferred to permanent storage at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) from the University of Newcastle on 8 November 2022.

### **Governance Approvals and amendments**

Approval was received on 7 December 2021 from the AIHW Ethics Committee for the SHOAMP Phase III data collection. The application sought approval for AIHW to store 12 analytical datasets from the SHOAMP study.

An amendment to the ethics application was prepared in December 2022 (for submission to the AIHW Ethics Committee in January 2023), to allow AIHW to store 13 datasets to reduce the risk of spontaneous recognition of individuals included in the study.

### **Transfer of Data-Linkage Key**

At the 11 October 2021 meeting, the SMC endorsed DVA's recommendation to approach a third party to provide storage and support services to the Air Force Association (AFA) in its role as the SHOAMP data-linkage key custodian. In 2022, a provider that meets the criteria for the management and protection of Commonwealth data, was identified.

Work is in progress to procure the provider, with a view to the transfer of the data-linkage key being completed in 2023.