**DVA F-111 and Research Page Executive Summary - Australian Defence Force Fuel Worker Case File Review Report**

On 5 May 2016, DVA commissioned Occupational, Environmental and Public Health Medicine Physician Dr Graeme Peel to carry out an independent review of Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) case files and Australian Defence Force (ADF) health records of ex-serving fuel veterans claiming health conditions from past fuel exposure.

A total of 29 cases were reviewed. These cases were made up of 21 former Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) veterans who had made claims to DVA. DVA also approached key Ex-Service Organisations to identify veterans claiming health conditions from occupational fuel exposure. In response, the 8th Petroleum Platoon Royal Australian Army Service Corps Association identified two Army personnel, with one of the two identifying another six veterans.

The review analysed the reasons for rejection or acceptance of claims to see if there were any gaps in the consideration of claims by DVA, or in the medical evidence or relevant compensation schemes. The review was completed on 30 October 2016.

The actual exposure of these veterans to aviation fuels could not be determined from case records. There were several self-reported exposure incidents and some veterans self-reported regular fuel tank entries. A lack of exposure information from records means that an association between exposures and health conditions is unlikely to be established.

The review identified 376 conditions with 327 submitted as claims. As part of DVA’s claims process, a total of 154 conditions were accepted based on a confirmed diagnosis and a considered evaluation of the relationship between the condition(s) and military service. There were 173 conditions disallowed.

Many claimed conditions were found to be consistent with the inherent nature of military duties or the study group demographic and are unlikely to have been caused solely by fuel exposure. There was no trend in fuel-related conditions.

The review suggests that personal health status including lifestyle factors and possible genetic susceptibility may also impact on the development of health effects.

There were no gaps identified in the medical evidence to determine claims, particularly in relation to Statements of Principles (SoPs). No changes to the relevant SoPs are indicated by the review.

Dr Peel found 49 health conditions in the files of individuals during his review which would almost certainly have been able to be successfully claimed. However, there was no evidence of any claim having been submitted to DVA.

DVA encourages all serving or ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force to submit a claim for conditions they believe are related to their service.