



HEALTH STUDIES

[Health Study 2005: Australian Veterans of the Korean War](#)

[Korean Veterans Mortality Study](#)

[Review of SAS Veterans' Health Concerns](#)

[Korean War Veterans Cancer Incidence Study](#)

[The Australian Gulf War Veterans' Health Study](#)

[Korean Veterans General Health Survey](#)

[Study of Health Outcomes in Aircraft Maintenance Personnel \(SHOAMP\)](#)

[Australian Participants in the British Nuclear Tests Program - Cancer Incidence and Mortality Study](#)

[3rd Vietnam Veterans' Mortality Study and Cancer Incidence in Vietnam Veterans Study](#)

[Feasibility Study Into a Health Study of Sons and Daughters of Vietnam Veterans](#)

Health Study 2005: Australian Veterans of the Korean War

The Health Study 2005: Australian Veterans of the Korean War is the third and final study in a series of studies of the health of Australian Korean War veterans. The reports for first two studies, the Cancer Incidence Study and the [Mortality Study](#), were released in 2003. The three studies constitute a major study program of health in this Australian veteran population and represent one of the most comprehensive investigations of health ever conducted in an entire veteran group.

Health Study 2005: Australian Veterans of the Korean War was prompted by recommendations from the first two studies concerning the need for a general health survey of Australian Korean War veterans. The study compared surviving male Korean War veterans

with a group of men of similar age who were resident in Australia at the time of the Korean War but who did not serve in Korea.

The study was commissioned by the Repatriation Commission, managed by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and conducted by Monash University.

[View the Health Study here](#)

[[back to top](#)]

Korean Veterans' Mortality Study

The *Mortality Study 2003*: Australian Veterans of the Korean War report was released in December 2003. This research study of Australian male veterans of the Korean War was prompted by concerns from the Korean War veteran community that their death rates, particularly those due to heart disease, diabetes, prostate and other cancers, respiratory illnesses and renal failure were higher than the Australian male population and that this increase was due to their service in Korea. The study was conducted by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#). [View the report here](#).

[Download the PDF version of the report here](#). (Adobe Acrobat PDF, 3.3Mb)

[[back to top](#)]

Review of SAS Veterans' Health Concerns

The [Report of the Expert Panel to Review SAS Veterans' Health Concerns and the Government's response](#) were released in March 2004. The health study was initiated in December 2002 to identify and document exposures of concern arising through Special Air Services (SAS) operational skills enhancement and training, and to examine their possible adverse effects. The Review also considered the need for further research and whether any particular matters should be drawn to the attention of the [Repatriation Medical Authority](#) (RMA).

An independent Expert Panel conducted the study. The Panel was chaired by Professor Ken Donald, who is also Chairman of the Repatriation Medical Authority, and included experts in the fields of toxicology and genetics.

The Defence/DVA Links Project Review Board is overseeing response to the recommendations of the study.

[[back to top](#)]

Korean War Veterans Cancer Incidence Study

The Cancer Incidence Study 2003: Australian Veterans of the Korean War was initiated by the Australian Government in May 2001. The Cancer Incidence Study compared the rates of cancers among the Korean War veteran population with the rates of comparable cancers among the general Australian male population of the same age.

The findings of the Study, conducted by the Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, are available at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm?type=detail&id=9589> .

[[back to top](#)]

Australian Gulf War Veterans' Health Study

The [Report of the Australian Gulf War Veterans' Health Study](#) was released in March 2003. The health study was initiated in July 1999 to compare the health of Australians who served in operations in the Persian Gulf in 1991 to other members of the Australian Defence Force and the wider community.

The study was conducted for the Department of Veterans' Affairs by a team from Monash University, under the supervision of an independent Scientific Advisory Committee and a consultative forum representing veteran and service organisations. A media release announcing the release of the report is available at: http://minister.dva.gov.au/media_releases/2003/03_mar/va017.htm.

Information on the [actions taken in response to the recommendations](#) was published in August 2004.

[[back to top](#)]

Korean Veterans General Health Survey

A pilot exercise was undertaken in 2002 to establish whether it was feasible to conduct a postal health survey of surviving Korean War veterans. The pilot involved about 150 veterans and a similar number of people from the general community who were of adult age during the Korean War period. The pilot indicated that, with some changes, a full cohort survey would be successful. The report of the pilot will be published as part of the General Health Survey report. The questionnaires for the main health study have been sent out and responses are being analysed by Monash University who are undertaking the study. The report is expected to be available in August/September 2005.

[[back to top](#)]

Study of Health Outcomes in Aircraft Maintenance Personnel (SHOAMP)

A research team from the University of Newcastle has completed an investigation into whether there is an association between adverse health and an involvement in F-111 fuel tank deseal/reseal activities and, if so, the nature and strength of that association. The current health status of those workers was compared with the health of groups of workers with similar backgrounds from Amberley and Richmond air bases.

All five volumes of the completed SHOAMP report are available at: <http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/dhs/infocentre/research/shoamp/shoamp.htm>.

[[back to top](#)]

Australian Participants in the British Nuclear Tests Program – Cancer Incidence and Mortality Study

The study of mortality and the incidence of cancer among Australian participants in the British Nuclear Tests Program is progressing. The independent Scientific Advisory Committee appointed to oversee the study is considering aspects of the study, including the need for radiation dose reconstruction and the definition of a "nuclear tests participant". A team of experienced epidemiologists from the University of Adelaide is assisting with the study.

A Dosimetry Sub-Committee has been formed with representatives from the Scientific Advisory Committee, the Consultative Forum, the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency and an experienced radiation physicist from the University of Adelaide. The sub-committee has met frequently and it is expected that the Scientific Advisory Committee will consider the results of their work in reconstructing radiation doses in the near future.

The study reports are expected to be finalised in the next few months.

[[back to top](#)]

Third Vietnam Veterans' Mortality Study and Cancer Incidence in Vietnam Veterans Study

This study will update the mortality figures for Vietnam veterans. A previous study into the mortality of this group of veterans was published in 1997. This study also will investigate cancer incidence in Vietnam veterans - the first time cancer incidence has been investigated for all Service branches.

The Cancer Incidence study and the mortality and other volumes are expected to be completed later in 2005.

[[back to top](#)]

Feasibility Study Into a Health Study of Sons and Daughters of Vietnam Veterans

On 31 August 2004, the Australian Government announced that it would examine the feasibility of conducting a study of the health of the children of Vietnam veterans. The feasibility study will be managed by the Defence Links Branch of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, on behalf of the Repatriation Commission. There will be close consultation with representatives of the Vietnam veteran community via a Consultative Forum and with eminent independent experts via a Scientific Advisory Committee.

- The first joint meeting of the Consultative Forum and Scientific Advisory Committee was held on 3 March 2005. [The public record is available here](#). The Public Record is a summary of the formal minutes that ensures the confidentiality and privacy of the

members and advisers participating in those meetings.

- The Consultative Committee held its third meeting on 01 June 2005. [The public record is available here](#). The feasibility study is expected to be shortly.
- The Consultative Committee held its fourth meeting on 29 June 2005. [The public record is available here](#).
- The Consultative Committee held its fifth meeting on 23 August 2005. [The public record is available here](#).
- The Consultative Committee held its sixth meeting on 18 October 2005. [The public record is available here](#).

View previous public records:

[17 May 2005](#)

[7 April 2005](#)

[[back to top](#)]

Page last updated: 7 September 2005