



Australian Government  
Department of Defence



## UPDATE -- JET FUEL EXPOSURE SYNDROME (JFES) STUDY

Dear Volunteers,

Thank you for your assistance and interest in the Jet Fuel Exposure Syndrome (JFES) Study of former F-111 Deseal/Reseal workers.

Enclosed is an update on the progress of the important research into the possible genetic links to health issues experienced by these former workers.

**We are now at an important stage in the research. We need new volunteers who were not occupationally exposed to Fuels or Solvents and who can act as a 'control' group for the research. These new non-exposed volunteers should be male and in the age range of 50 – 70 years old.**

**We are seeking your help in identifying people who might be volunteers for the control group.**

Your assistance in identifying these new control group volunteers is important for the research. The full details are in the attached document.

Thank you for your continued support.

Dr Ian R Gardner  
Department of Defence

Professor Frank Bowling  
Mater Health Services

31 July 2013



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## **JET FUEL EXPOSURE SYNDROME STUDY -- 100 NON FUEL / SOLVENT EXPOSED CONTROL GROUP SUBJECTS NEEDED**

The Jet Fuel Exposure Syndrome (JFES) Study is a four year, world first, ground-breaking research project being conducted for the Department of Defence by Prof Frank Bowling and the team at Mater Medical Research Institute (MMRI) in Brisbane. This study was a recommendation of the F-111 Deseal/Reseal (DS/RS) Parliamentary Inquiry, and it is investigating whether there are genetic factors which may contribute to adverse health outcomes amongst former F-111 DS/RS personnel exposed to Fuels and Solvents. Depending on the Study findings, its scope may be extended in the future to look at groups OTHER than former F-111 workers.

The Study is progressing well thanks to great support from our many F-111 DS/RS volunteers. However there is now a need for up to 100 personnel who have **NOT** been occupationally exposed to Fuels or Solvents. This proposal was presented by the researchers to the JFES Consultative Forum chaired by the Hon Arch Bevis in Brisbane on Thursday 27 June 2013, and was unanimously endorsed by all participants, including Defence, DVA and Air Force as well as the representatives of the F-111 DS/RS Support Group, the Air Force Association, RSL and the Defence Force Welfare Association.

Ideally, these new Non-Exposed Control Group volunteers should be of the same age (50-70 years), sex (male) and service history as the Study subjects. But in practice, if you have a brother or another close male relative who has **NOT** been occupationally exposed to fuels and solvents, and who is in the right age group (50 - 70), they would be most welcome to volunteer. They do **not** need to be a former member of the ADF. Selection of these control group subjects will be made in confidence by the MMRI researchers, without input from Defence or DVA.

What is required of these selected NON FUEL/SOLVENT EXPOSED CONTROL group volunteers is attendance at a pathology collection centre arranged by MMRI, donation of 34 mls of blood, and completion of a short medical questionnaire. There is no payment for this attendance, however necessary transport costs are reimbursed.

Without additional NON-EXPOSED Control group subjects, the JFES Study will be unable to accurately determine the extent of any effect from occupational exposure to fuels and solvents. Hence further participation by persons without exposure to Fuels and Solvents is critical in helping the JFES Study to reach its statistical aims, and in helping Defence and DVA to understand the factors influencing adverse health effects in some former fuel and solvent exposed workers.

Please discuss this new volunteering request with your male siblings, close male relatives and other men you may know who have NOT been occupationally exposed to fuels or solvents.

Attached is a FORM that can be completed online and emailed to: Barbara.Makepeace@mater.org.au. Alternatively, the form can be printed and mailed directly to the MMRI researchers, ATTN: Barbara Makepeace at: MMRI, Level 2, Aubigny Place, Mater Hospital, South Brisbane QLD 4101.

If you require any further information, please contact the Research Assistant: Barbara Makepeace on PH: 07 3163 6707

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## CONTROL PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION FORM JET FUEL EXPOSURE SYNDROME STUDY

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBURB: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please register by Phoning: 07 3163 6707

OR

Email form to: [Barbara.Makepeace@mater.org.au](mailto:Barbara.Makepeace@mater.org.au)

OR

Post form to: Barbara Makepeace

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