

**I understand a letter was sent to Oakey residents this week informing them that Defence would not be facilitating further blood tests for PFOS and PFOA exposure.**

**Q1: How many Oakey residents were sent this letter?**

A small number of residents were sent a letter last week.

**Q2: Was the letter sent to all residents or those who applied for a blood test?**

The letter was sent to people who have requested a blood test since the program of blood testing funded by Defence was concluded. In its submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee inquiry in to contamination of Australian Defence Force facilities and other Commonwealth, state and territory sites in Australia, Part A – RAAF Base Williamtown, Defence advised that it would not be conducting further blood testing. (Submission Number 87, Attachment B, paragraphs 59-64.)

**Q3: Does Defence accept that residents are concerned about the potential levels of PFOS and PFOA in them and their children?**

Health advice is a matter for State health authorities.

According to the Environmental Health Standing Committee (enHealth) [guidance statements](#) issued 16 March 2016, there is currently no consistent evidence that exposure to PFOS and PFOA causes adverse human health effects. Because these chemicals persist in humans and the environment, enHealth recommends that human exposure to these chemicals is minimised as a precaution.

If people have concerns or questions about the potential effects of PFCs, they may wish to speak to Queensland Health on 13Health – 13 43 25 84.