

**Question:**

Has the department written to or made contact with the firefighters from Pearce air base who used the foams containing PFAS before the foams were phased out?

**Response:**

Defence's priority remains the health and safety of Defence personnel and the community and also the management of potential impacts of PFAS exposure on the environment. Defence relies on the advice of health authorities that state there is currently no consistent evidence that exposure to PFAS causes adverse human health effects.

Defence has, developed means for current and former workers at Defence sites to become informed about the PFAS Investigations being conducted and receive advice on available services.

National and site specific hotlines have been established to assist in answering queries, address concerns and registering historical information provided by the community including current and past firefighters. Defence conducts briefings at Defence sites prior to and during the investigations. These are attended by Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel, Australian Public Service (APS) members and contractors working on the Base. Defence members who wish to discuss health issues related to PFAS are advised to speak to their local ADF health provider or health practitioner.

Current and former ADF personnel who suspect that they may have been exposed to PFAS can also access the Defence Exposure Evaluation Scheme (DEES).

DEES is also open to current Defence APS members and ADF cadets who suspect that they have been exposed to a hazardous chemical.

To access DEES, current ADF members and Defence APS members can contact:

[1800 DEFENCE](#)

- Military Compensation and Rehabilitation Service [1300 550 461](#)
- Comcare [1300 366 979](#)

Former members of the ADF can access DEES by contacting:

- Department of Veterans' Affairs 133 254
- [1800 DEFENCE](#)