

**Questions:**

What is the Department of Defence's position on testing current and former firefighters at Pearce air base to determine what level of PFAS they have in their blood?

**Response:**

The health and safety of military and civilian personnel is one of Defence's primary concerns. Currently, the Australian Government is conducting a voluntary blood testing program to the Williamstown, New South Wales and Oakey, Queensland communities because the extent of contamination and exposure pathways is well understood.

Defence personnel or their families who have previously lived or worked in the Williamstown or Oakey Investigation Areas are also eligible for the program.

Once further investigations of other areas have been completed, and the extent of the contamination and exposure pathways are better understood, the Australian Government will be in a position to consider whether it would be appropriate to expand the voluntary blood testing program, epidemiological study and additional mental health and support services to these investigation areas.