

**Response provided to journalist
15 March 2019**

Question:

Can you advise on the status of your "regional representative" in Katherine?

I believe it was [REDACTED]

Is this position still filled?

When is Defence providing the next community update for Katherine?

Response:

During the conduct of the RAAF Base Tindal PFAS Environmental Investigation (completed November 2018) a Regional Representative from Defence was placed in the Katherine community, to provide support to community members impacted by PFAS. This representative was engaged to assist in the implementation of the Katherine Rainwater Tank Program, which resulted in the installation of tanks on 68 properties in Katherine. The representative was a local point of contact for community organisations addressing PFAS issues within the Katherine community.

With completion of the RAAF Base Tindal PFAS Environmental Investigation in November 2018, Defence transitioned its Regional Representative arrangement to a locally engaged representative. This local Defence Representative is available to provide information and support to the community as required. The local Defence Representative regularly visits Katherine Residents to address PFAS related matters and concerns. The local Defence Representative can be reached through the Investigation Information Line on 1800 316 813 or via PFAS.RAABaseTindal@coffey.com

Defence intends to provide a newsletter to the Katherine community in the near future. The newsletter will be mailed to all addresses in the Katherine area and will be sent electronically to all registered stakeholders on the Investigation Hotline database.

Defence will conduct a community engagement event in the second quarter of 2019, after the completion of the first round of the ongoing monitoring program. Details of the session will be circulated to the community and local media closer to the date.

The Department of Health administers the Blood Testing and Community Health Support Program. Any further questions relating to this should be directed to them on 1800 941 180 or via health.PFAS@health.gov.au.