



Australian Government

Department of Defence

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs Human Research Ethics Committee

**Report to the Vice Chief of the Defence Force and to the Deputy
President, Department of Veterans' Affairs**

REPORT 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2019

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs Human Research Ethics Committee (DDVA HREC) met eight times between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2019.
2. During the reporting period, Mr Tony Cotton was appointed as the Deputy Chair, and Dr Rebekah Doley and Ms Catherine Walsh resigned from the Committee.
3. The Joint Health Command Low Risk Ethics Panel (JHC-LREP) closed in May and the monitoring obligations of the 35 active protocols was transferred to the DDVA HREC.
4. During the reporting period, 93 new proposals were submitted for ethical review. Additionally, the Committee received 54 resubmissions, 135 requests for amendment, and 36 requests for extensions to the period of ethical approval.
5. There was one serious adverse event, five adverse events, one deviation reported and one complaint received.

2. BACKGROUND

6. The DDVA HREC was established as the institutional human research ethics committee for the Department of Defence (Defence) and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) on 1 July 2017. The DDVA HREC is registered with the National Health and Medical Research Council (EC00460) and as an Institutional Review Board with the United States Office for Human Research Protections (00009098).
7. The DDVA HREC provides annual reports (based on a calendar year) to the Vice Chief of the Defence Force and the Deputy President Strategy, DVA in accordance with the [DDVA HREC Terms of Reference](#)¹. The third annual report provides a summary of DDVA HREC's activities from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019.

3. MEETINGS AND EXECUTIVE SUPPORT

8. The Committee met eight times during the year between February and November, at six-weekly intervals. Attendance by the minimum categories of membership, as outlined in National Statement paragraph 5.1.30, was unable to be obtained for the February – September meetings. Members who were unable to attend provided out-of-session comment for consideration at the corresponding meetings (therefore satisfying the requirements under National Statement paragraph 5.2.30).
9. For the October meeting, the Committee did not have two appointed category (f) members attend however, one of the two new applications received was deemed to be low risk and did not require full HREC review and the other submission required resubmission to the full HREC at a subsequent meeting. Additionally, the resubmission that was considered at the October meeting was deemed to be low risk and is therefore full HREC review was not required.
10. In addition to considering proposals at scheduled meetings, members provided out-of-session feedback on a number of occasions during the reporting period.
11. Secretariat support for the day-to-day functioning of the Committee was provided by the Directorate Health Business, Programs and Plans.

¹ DDVA HREC Terms of Reference
http://www.defence.gov.au/health/hrec/docs/171205_DDVA_HREC_Terms-of-Reference.pdf

4. MEMBERSHIP

12. Committee membership for the reporting period is provided at Table 1.

Table 1: Committee membership

| Name | Category |
|------------------------|---|
| Mr Ian Tindall | Chair |
| Mr Tony Cotton AM | Deputy Chair |
| Mr Lindsay Roe | Layperson |
| Dr David Ugalde | Layperson |
| Ms Margaret Proctor | Layperson |
| Ms Vivienne Moyle | Layperson |
| Dr Carl Bryant | Professional Care/Counselling |
| Mr Stephen Brimstone | Professional Care/Counselling |
| CHAP Robert Sutherland | Pastoral Care |
| REV Dr Nicole Coleman | Pastoral Care |
| Dr Wendy Bonython | Lawyer |
| Ms Sara Wedgwood | Lawyer |
| Ms Amelia Digance | Lawyer |
| Dr Herbert Biggs | Researcher |
| Dr Jane Harte | Researcher |
| Dr Renee Otmar | Researcher |
| Dr Rebekah Doley | Researcher (till May 2019) |
| Dr Victoria Ross | Defence Health Graduate |
| CAPT Nicole Curtis | Defence Health Graduate |
| Dr Christopher Wilson | Contemporary Veteran |
| Ms Catherine Walsh | Contemporary Veteran (till August 2019) |

5. TRAINING

13. In accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (National Statement), paragraph 5.2.3(c), members are required to attend continuing education or training in research ethics at least every three years. During the reporting period, members:

- a. observed other HREC meetings
- b. attended ethics related workshops, conferences and round table meetings
- c. presented at workshops and conferences in their professional capacity
- d. attended an internal conference where there was discussion of matters specific to the types of proposals that the DDVA HREC reviews.

6. CLOSURE OF THE JOINT HEALTH COMMAND LOW RISK ETHICS PANEL

14. The JHC-LREP closed in May 2019 and the monitoring obligations of 35 active research proposals was transferred to the DDVA HREC. Following the closure of the JHC-LREP, the ethical review of low and negligible risk health research, was conducted by the Chair and/or Deputy Chair and the Secretariat in accordance with the DDVA HREC Researcher and Administrative Guidelines paragraph 2.59. Other committee members and/or subject matter experts were asked to review applications as appropriate.

7. REVIEW OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Consideration of new applications

15. The DDVA HREC reviewed 42 new research proposals at a scheduled meeting. An additional new application was circulated to the full HREC for out-of-session consideration.

16. Of the 43 new applications tabled for review by the full HREC, seven were exempt from non-HREC review pathways under the National Statement, three were deemed to be quality assurance/evaluation activities, thirteen were deemed to be low, one was outside of the scope of the HREC and nineteen were deemed to be greater than low risk.

17. Forty-nine applications were reviewed under non-HREC review pathways in accordance with the DDVA HREC Researcher and Administrative Guidelines paragraph 2.59.

18. Of the 49 new applications that were reviewed under non-HREC review pathways, one was deemed not to be research, six were deemed to be quality assurance activities, six were deemed to be negligible risk, twenty-three were deemed to be low risk and twelve were reviewed under processes for minimising duplication of ethical review.

19. Table 2 provides a summary of the new applications considered by the DDVA HREC during the reporting period:

Table 2: Summary of new applications

| | Number |
|--|-----------|
| Greater than low risk | 19 |
| Exempt from non-HREC review | 7 |
| Low risk | 36 |
| Negligible risk | 6 |
| Quality assurance/evaluation | 9 |
| Not human research | 1 |
| Outside of scope of the Committee | 1 |
| Mutual recognition | 12 |
| Total | 91 |

20. The increase in numbers of applications that were reviewed under non-HREC review pathways can be attributed to the increase in the number of applications referred to the DDVA HREC by the Defence People Research Low Risk Ethics Panel due to a conflict of interest, the closure of the JHC-LREP and the increase in the number of applications that are reviewed under mutual recognition pathways.

21. At the end of the reporting period there were 13 new applications that were still under review.

22. A list of the approved projects is at Annex A.

Resubmissions

23. At the beginning of the calendar year there were eight protocols from the previous reporting period that required further clarification/amendment prior to ethical approval being granted.

24. There were 54 resubmissions during the reporting period. Nineteen resubmissions were considered at a scheduled meeting and 35 were resubmissions were considered out-of-session.

Waivers of consent

25. Occasionally, the DDVA HREC will receive requests for waivers of the requirement for consent to participate in research. These requests are considered in accordance with the National Statement, the *Privacy Act 1988* and other relevant guidance and/or legislation.

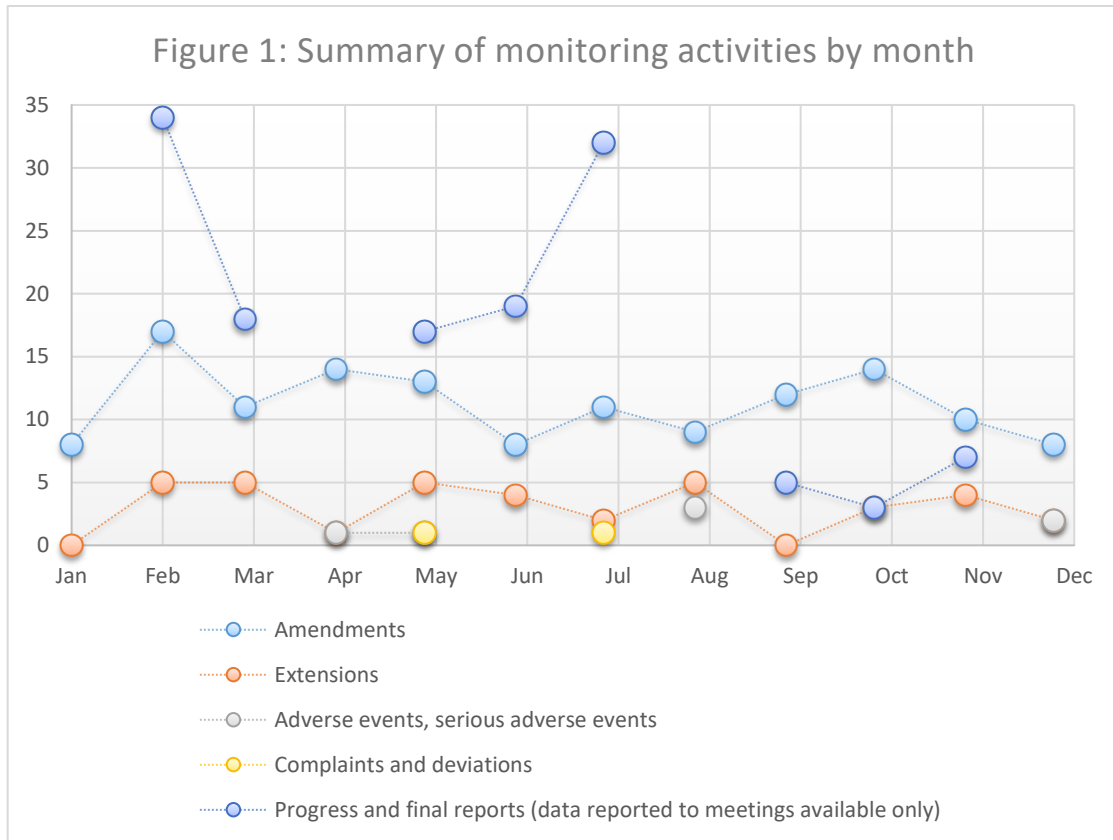
26. Waivers of consent are reported at research completion in accordance with the National Statement paragraph 2.3.12.

27. During the reporting period, the DDVA HREC received a Final Report for 794-15 'Associations Between Physical Fitness, Injury Patterns and the Physical Conditioning Curriculum at the Royal Military College – Duntroon'. This project involved linkage and analysis of fitness test and injury data. The DDVA HREC was satisfied that there were sufficient mechanisms in place to protect the privacy of individuals and confidentiality of data; that it was impracticable to obtain consent due to the size of the research cohort; that it was unlikely that participants would not have consented to use of their data for this project; that the research was of no more than low risk; and that the waiver was not prohibited by State or Federal law.

8. MONITORING OF APPROVED RESEARCH

28. In accordance with the National Statement Chapter 5.5, Defence and DVA have a responsibility for ensuring that research approved by their institutional ethical review body (DDVA HREC) is monitored in a manner that reflects the degree of risk to research participants. With effect 31 December 2019, the DDVA HREC was responsible for the ongoing monitoring of 198 active protocols.

29. Figure 1 provides a summary of the monitoring activities conducted during the reporting period.

Figure 1: Summary of Monitoring Activities

Amendments to approved projects

30. Prior to the implementation of any amendments to an approved study, Principal Investigators must seek ethical approval of the amendment from the DDVA HREC. Amendments initially considered out-of-session and are referred to the full HREC where necessary.

31. During the reporting period one hundred and thirty-three amendments were considered out-of-session and two required full HREC review due to the nature of the amendment. This represents a significant increase in the monitoring activity of the HREC during the reporting period.

Extensions to the period of ethical approval

32. Ethical approval is granted for the duration of the project, as indicated in the approved research proposal, or for a period of up to three years. Where the research is to extend beyond the period of ethical approval, the Principal Investigator is required to seek an extension to the period of ethical approval.

33. During the reporting period, the DDVA HREC considered 36 requests for extensions to the period of ethical approval.

Deviation

34. One deviation relating to release of data was reported. The data custodian was contacted immediately and updated data was provided.

Adverse Events

35. Researchers are required to report serious adverse events to the DDVA HREC within 72 hours and adverse events within 30 calendar days. During the reporting period the DDVA HREC received notification of one serious adverse event and five adverse events.
36. One serious adverse event report was received in the reporting period. The researchers were advised of the death of a research participant that was not related to participation in the research. The Chair initially reviewed the report out-of-session and the Committee considered the report as a scheduled meeting. The Committee agreed that the event was not related to the research, appropriate action had been taken by the researchers following notification and that no further action was required.
37. One adverse event muscle strain that was probably related to participation in the research. The individual ceased participation in the trial and the appropriate follow up action was undertaken.
38. Three adverse events included dizziness, headache and/or vomiting that occurred in three participants for a heat trial. All instances were managed in accordance with the approved protocol and no ongoing management was required.
39. One adverse event was reported where a participant experienced anaphylaxis during treatment that was not related to the study. The adverse event was managed in accordance with established medical procedures.

Audits

40. During the reporting period the Secretariat conducted desktop audits of seven research proposals. Two audits raised no concerns and the remaining five audits identified discrepancies, missing documentation, missing governance approval and one protocol with lack of clarity as to the nature of the participant cohort. The Secretariat requested that the Principal Investigator provide clarity on or submit missing documentation.

Progress & Final Reports

41. As a condition of approval, and in accordance with National Statement paragraph 5.5.5, researchers are required to submit reports at least annually to the relevant ethical review body/ies. The Secretariat provides a compliance register to DDVA HREC as a standing agenda item at each meeting. The report includes an update on reports received, those that are outstanding and those that are due in the near future.
42. During the reporting 136 progress reports and 24 final reports were submitted. A list of the completed research is at Annex B.

Complaints

43. One complaint was submitted during the reporting period. The period related to the time taken to refer an application from a Low Risk Ethics Panel to the DDVA HREC. All matters have been either been addressed or improvements have been made.

9. SUMMARY

44. Table 3 provides an overview of DDVA HREC activities for the reporting period in comparison to the 2018 calendar year.

Table 3: Comparison of activities between 2018 and 2019

| | 2019 | 2018 | Difference |
|--|------|------|------------|
| New Applications | 91 | 77 | ↑ 14 |
| Resubmissions | 54 | 85 | ↓ 31 |
| Amendments | 135 | 103 | ↑ 32 |
| Extensions to the period of ethical approval | 36 | 35 | ↑ 1 |
| Adverse Events | 5 | 3 | ↑ 2 |
| Serious adverse event | 1 | 1 | |
| Complaint | 1 | 0 | ↑ 1 |
| Deviations | 1 | 0 | ↑ 1 |
| Applications monitoring at end of year | 198 | 164 | ↑ 82 |
| Number of DDVA HREC Committee meetings | 8 | 11 | ↓ 3 |

10. CONCLUSION

45. The workload of the DDVA HREC continues to increase as the Committee matures. The key changes influencing the profile of the DDVA HREC are the closure of the JHC-LREP, referral of applications by the DPR-LREP due to a conflict of interest and a change in key personnel within the secretariat from June 2019. This is reflected in the increase of the number of low risk applications submitted to the full HREC in the latter half of the year. The Secretariat will review and monitor the number of proposals for review under non-HREC review pathways and report on trends to institutional delegates on an adhoc basis.

46. Processes and procedures supporting the DDVA HREC will continue to be reviewed to ensure that they meet changes to legislation, guidelines and institutional policy as a core business activity.

ANNEX A – APPROVED PROTOCOLS

| Protocol number and title | Principal Investigator and Institution | Aim |
|---|--|---|
| 063-18 Investigation of the psychological, physiological and subjective distinguishing characteristics between Adaptive Dreams and Post-Traumatic (PTSD) nightmares as featured in Post-traumatic Stress Disorder | Prof Glen Bates Swinburne University of Technology | The research aims to investigate differences in psychological, neurophysiological and phenomenological characteristics between two groups; those who feature nightmares and are diagnosed with PTSD and those who feature adaptive dreams of a traumatic event. |
| 074-18 Investigating heat tolerance in females | Dr Melissa Crowe James Cook University | This study aims to validate the current heat tolerance test protocol for females and develop an alternative protocol if the current protocol is inappropriate. |
| 075-18 Heat illness: Role of acclimatisation, genetic, biochemical, haematological and physiological factors | Dr Melissa Crowe James Cook University | The aim of this study is to identify acclimatisation, genetic, biochemical, blood and physiological factors associated with heat illness. |
| 079-18 Shame, event centrality and moral identity: exploring new constructs in understanding the relation between exposure to potentially morally injurious events and moral injury | Prof David Forbes Phoenix Australia | The aim of this study is to examine the roles of shame, moral identity and centrality of events in individuals who have been exposed to a potentially morally injurious event. |
| 083-18 Army prospective physical performance and resilience study: Phase two | Dr Herbert Groeller University of Wollongong | This study aims to investigate physical performance, incidence of musculoskeletal injury and rate of attrition in recruits, investigate the relationship between prospectively recorded non-time loss musculoskeletal complaints and physical training load upon the incidence of musculoskeletal injury, and investigate the effect of an experimental regimen for infantry Initial Employment Training. |
| 086-18 Investigating the application of an integrated approach to resilience training at the Royal Military College (RMC) | Dr Monique Crane Macquarie University | This study aims to investigate the effect of training instructors to embed self-reflection approaches into typical field exercises and lessons, on the resilience and performance of RMC Cadets. To compare the outcomes of Cadet group whose instructors do or do not receive the self-reflection training. |

| Protocol number and title | Principal Investigator and Institution | Aim |
|--|---|---|
| 087-18 Veterans' health concerns and deployment experiences | Dr Michael Waller University of Queensland | The aim of this study is to analyse military veterans' health concerns and deployment experiences and examine psychological outcomes in order to better understand this population group and provide evidence to improve health and satisfaction with military life. |
| 088-18 Benefits realisation and its applicability in practice | Dr Alireza Abbasi University of New South Wales | This research aims to investigate how benefits management is incorporated in all the phases of project life cycle; and how project performance and benefits are evaluated on the completion of projects in the public sector organisations |
| 092-18 Experiences of medical practitioners in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) on live tissue trauma training | Dr Mandy Moffat University of Dundee, United Kingdom | The study aims to characterise ADF medical practitioners' experience live animal trauma training, training, by answering the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What is the experience by military doctors of live tissue trauma training? b. What aspects of the experience of live tissue trauma training are valued and not valued by participants? c. What are the emotional and cognitive effects of live tissue trauma training on its participants? |
| 096-18 Molecular Epidemiological Surveillance of pfhrp2 and pfhrp3 Gene Deletions in Plasmodium falciparum Parasite Population in Uganda | Mr Agaba Bosco National Malaria Control Program, Ministry of Health, Uganda | The aim of this study is to assess the prevalence, distribution and extent of the spread of pfhrp2 and pfhrp3 gene deletions in P. falciparum parasite populations in Uganda. |
| 098-19 Comparison of a hydration drink in the ADF | Ms Bianka Probert Defence Science & Technology Group | This research aims to assess: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. whether a hydration drink containing resistant starch improves the hydration of personnel immediately before training and during recovery b. whether a hydration drink can improve gut health |

| Protocol number and title | Principal Investigator and Institution | Aim |
|--|---|--|
| | | c. the impact of hydration in cognitive performance with and without hydration drink. |
| 099-19 Women serving in the Australian Defence Force: an exploration of genitourinary health issues | Dr Simone O'Connor Charles Sturt University | The research aims to determine the types, prevalence, severity and onset of genitourinary health issues experienced by military women; establish factors contributing to genitourinary health issues in military women; explore the impacts of genitourinary health issues on occupational health, safety and performance of military women; and ascertain ways in which female military personnel currently manage genitourinary health issues, and organisational support and services they perceive assist, or would assist (if available), them in this process. |
| 100-19 A Randomised Controlled Trial of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I) and Imagery Rehearsal Therapy (IRT) for Ex-Service Personnel with Insomnia and Nightmares in the Context of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Obstructive Sleep Apnoea | Ms Miriam Dwyer Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation | The aim of the study is to investigate whether the use of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), with the addition of Imagery Rehearsal Therapy (IRT) improves sleep disturbances in ex-service personnel with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), insomnia and nightmares compared to CBT-I alone. In addition, the research will explore if obstructive sleep apnoea negatively moderates the outcomes of CBT-I or CBT-I + IRT. |
| 101-19 Spatial Disorientation in Australian Defence Force aircrew | Dr Adrian Smith Institute of Aviation Medicine | This research aims to investigate the incidence and characteristics of episodes of spatial disorientation in ADF aircrew. |
| 103-19 Problem gambling in the military | Dr Sean Cowlshaw Phoenix Australia | This research aims to evaluate the frequency of gambling problems when observed across pre-deployment and post-deployment periods; examine the implications for ADF member and families when considered over time; explore risk factors and vulnerable groups which evidence greatest need for support or intervention services |

| Protocol number and title | Principal Investigator and Institution | Aim |
|---|--|--|
| 104-19 Leaving military service | Dr Ellie Lawrence-Wood University of Adelaide | The project aims to explore the relationship between the presence of mental health symptoms and employment in transitioned ADF members, and focuses on the influencing factors identified as part of the Transition and Wellbeing Research Programme 'Mental Health Prevalence' report. |
| 105-19 Investigating factors that influence the relationship between psychological health and employment outcomes in transitioned Australian Defence Force members | Dr Ellie Lawrence-Wood University of Adelaide | The project aims to explore the relationship between the presence of mental health symptoms and employment in transitioned ADF members, and focuses on the influencing factors identified as part of the Transition and Wellbeing Research Programme 'Mental Health Prevalence' report. |
| 107-19 Creative Engagement by wounded, injured or ill Australian Defence Force personnel: a study of the benefits, challenges, impacts and outputs of the Australian Defence Force Arts for Recovery, Resilience, Teamwork and Skills Program | Assoc Prof Jordan Williams University of Canberra | The aim of this research is to gain non-clinical insight into the impact of creative engagement by ADF personnel, specifically those identified by the Department of Defence as meeting the medical criteria to be classified as being wounded, injured and/or ill. |
| 108-19 Transition From Military to Civilian: Identity, Social Connectedness, and Veteran Wellbeing | Dr Mal Flack Charles Darwin University | The aim of the research is to quantitatively investigate the influence of military identity and social connectedness to the transitioned environment on wellbeing among ex-serving regular ADF veterans who have transitioned from military to civilian life between 2000 and 2019. |
| 109-19 Suicide among serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members with service since 1985 | Ms Louise Gates Australian Institute of Health and Welfare | The project aim is to estimate the level of suicide among members with at least 1 day of ADF service since 1 January 1985, undertake a comparison with the general Australian population and identify factors that may be associated with suicide in the study population. |
| 110-19 A pilot study on how extended periods of overseas operational service impact the civilian careers and employment prospects of Army Reserve personnel | Associate Professor Chris Mason Swinburne University of Technology | The aim of this study is to gain a better understanding of the transition experiences of Army Reservists and how those experiences have had an impact on their civilian employment. This will inform a more detailed study to identify opportunities to improve the post-deployment transition process and to implement longer-term support initiatives. |

| Protocol number and title | Principal Investigator and Institution | Aim |
|---|--|--|
| 111-19 A Comparison of the Number and Costs of Gastrointestinal Investigations in Ex-service Personnel with and without PTSD | Dr Andrew Wie Cher Teo Greenslopes Private Hospital | The aim of this study is to compare the number of endoscopic investigations performed in ex-service personnel with and without PTSD and determine the related costs. |
| 112-19 Stakeholder perspective on the barriers to successful recovery following treatment for mental health problems in veterans: A concept mapping study | Dr Ellie Brown University of Melbourne | The aim of this study are to explore: a. what are the barriers to successful recovery following treatment for mental health problems in veterans (ex-serving military personnel) b. are the barriers to successful recovery following treatment for mental health problems in older veterans the same as those for young veterans, or do they differ? |
| 113-19 Australian Defence Force Families Survey | Ms Cherie Tan Defence People Intelligence and Research | This research aims to collect information on the experiences and attitudes of families of ADF members, to inform Defence of the impact of ADF conditions of service on family members' satisfaction with service life and overall quality of life. |
| 115-19 Modifiable cardiovascular disease risk factors in the Australian Defence Force | A/Prof Colleen Lau Australian National University | The aim of this research is to describe the prevalence and pattern of modifiable risk factors for cardiovascular disease within the ADF. |
| 116-19 Leadership development in the security sector in the South West Pacific | Professor Tom Frame University of New South Wales | The research will outline the key leadership development opportunities offered to the police and military leaders in Pacific Island nations. Predominantly, leadership development is offered to the security sector in the Pacific by police, military and Coast Guard organisations of Australia, New Zealand and the United States. The research project will focus on the current development opportunities offered by these organisations and consider the areas that may be enhanced to better suit the needs of the region. |

| Protocol number and title | Principal Investigator and Institution | Aim |
|---|--|---|
| 118-19 Arbovirus pathogen testing with blood samples from Papua New Guinea Defence Force | CAPT Jennifer Kookan Australian Defence Force Malaria & Infectious Disease Institute | This research aims to detect what vector borne and infectious diseases are circulating in Papua New Guinea (PNG) using archived blood samples from PNG Defence force members, and PCR based multiplexed assays. |
| 119-19 Understanding Problem Anger Causes | Dr Tracey Varker Phoenix Australia | This research aims to examine the daily experiences which might worsen the occurrence and intensity of anger in daily life. |
| 121-19 Defence Youth Safety Framework Evaluation | Mr Brad Barnes KPMG | The aim of the study is to evaluate the Defence Youth Safety Framework for its effectiveness in shaping the culture of Australian Defence Force Cadets in relation to a holistic view of Youth Safety. |
| 122-19 Building strategic junior leaders: a study of Army leadership development | Dr Deane-Peter Baker University of New South Wales | The research aims to outline the leadership development opportunities offered to non-commissioned officers in Special Air Service Regiment and Army, focusing on the current development opportunities (training and support) offered by these areas and consider the areas that can be enhanced. |
| 124-19 Workplace Behaviour Survey 2019 | Ms Martine Cosgrove Defence People Group | The Workplace Behaviours research program provides integral data and intelligence for two key reform objectives in Pathway to Change: Ethics and Workplace Behaviours, and Health Wellness and Safety. The research objectives and research questions operationalise this purpose. |
| 125-19 Identifying combat and combat-related stigma through the language of a deployed Australian military population | Dr Ellie Lawrence-Wood University of Adelaide | This research aims to identify the characteristics and prevalence of stigmatising language and advise how it can be changed and minimised to achieve more sustainable outcomes in recruitment, retention, combat readiness and capability. |

| Protocol number and title | Principal Investigator and Institution | Aim |
|---|--|---|
| 127-19 Characterisation of arbovirus infection in Defence personnel | Dr Wen Liu Australian Defence Force Malaria & Infectious Disease Institute | This research aims to characterise the strain/s of arbovirus responsible for causing disease in Defence personnel and to achieve epidemiological information regarding arbovirus infection of Defence personnel. |
| 129-19 Adaptive Sports Program | Ms Anna Lewis Australian Defence Force Sport | The aim of this research study is to evaluate the effect of participation in an adaptive sports program for serving and ex-serving ADF members. The focus of the Adaptive Sports Program is to assist wounded, injured and ill personnel (serving and ex-serving) to reintegrate and engage with sport to assist them in their road to recovery. |
| 133-19 Optimising the Defence Employment Package | Mr James Plummer Workforce Planning | This project aims to determine the preferences of members of the ADF over their Employee Value Propositions –the elements of Defence’s offers to employees. |
| 134-19 2019 Organisational Climate Survey | Ms Martine Cosgrove Defence People Group | This study aims to investigate Defence culture, climate leadership, work-life balance and working conditions. |
| 135-19 In their own words: A qualitative study of veteran’s perceptions and experiences of PTSD treatment | Dr Tracey Varker Phoenix Australia | The research aims to understand why veterans chose to initiate a given PTSD treatment, and their experiences of that treatment. The interviews aim to elicit an understanding of their perceptions and experiences of any type of PTSD treatment sought out by participants, including evidence based and non-evidence based. |
| 137-19 Predicting Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Risk based on Personality Aspects and Locus of Control | Dr Tia Cummins Monash University | The aim of the project is to investigate the relationship between an individual’s personality, their perceived control over their life and severity of stress disorder symptoms following trauma exposure. This is a first step towards developing a model to identify risk-loading factors for development of traumatic stress disorders, which could aid in selective |

| Protocol number and title | Principal Investigator and Institution | Aim |
|--|---|---|
| | | recruitment and placement to reduce PTSD prevalence within high risk Emergency Management Services and Military populations. |
| 138-19 Beyond the Finish Line: The Invictus Games | Dr Celina Hove Shirazipur Dalhousie University | The aim of this research is to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. explore the long-term impact of sport participation as a means of recovery through an examination of the Invictus Games b. identify best practices to support the long-term well-being of service members and Veterans with physical and mental illnesses and injuries. |
| 139-19 Facilitating and promoting higher education as a pathway for transitioning veterans to the South Australian Veteran Community | Dr Melanie Takarangi Flinders University | This research aims to explore veterans' understanding of higher education as a transition pathway and what influence it has had on their transition from the military to civil society. |
| 143-19 ADF DEHS Bipolar-PTSD Audit | Dr Duncan Wallace Australian Defence Force Centre for Mental Health | This research aims to investigate the finding of high 12 month prevalence of Bipolar Disorder in transitioned members of the ADF (9.8%) in the Mental Health Prevalence Report, Mental Health and Wellbeing Transition Study and to determine whether there is an association between a diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. |
| 144-19 Understanding Interpersonal Mistreatment | Ms Ruth Beach Australian National University | The over-arching aim is to better understand how interpersonal mistreatment is understood and measured in the workplace. |
| 149-19 Identification and responses to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in veteran's mental health and family support services | Dr Sean Cowlshaw Phoenix Australia | This research aims to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. provide preliminary evidence of the need for systematic responses to IPV in veteran's mental health and family support services in Australia b. suggest initial ways of responding to IPV victimisation and perpetration which may be feasible and appropriate in this context. |

| Protocol number and title | Principal Investigator and Institution | Aim |
|--|--|---|
| 151-19 Effect of the Physical Conditioning and Injury Management Program (PCIMP) Rotary Fit on Incident and Severity of Neck and Back Pain in Rotary Wing Aircrew | MAJ Joanne Shepherd Defence | The aim of the research project is to assess the efficacy of a structured physical conditioning and injury prevention program on the health and wellbeing of rotary wing aircrew (Pilots and Aircrewmen). |
| 153-19 Serum samples for quality control material in serological assays | CAPT Jo Kizu Australian Defence Force Malaria & Infectious Disease Institute | The research aims to use non-identified serum samples known to be serologically (antibody IgG or IgM) positive, equivocal or negative for arboviruses such as ross river virus, barmah forest virus, chikungunya virus, zika virus and dengue virus as quality control material for serological assays i.e. Enzyme Linked Immuno Sorbent Assay (ELISA). |
| 154-19 Large scale evidence generation for the utilisation and safety of biological medicines | Assoc Prof Nicole Pratt University of South Australia | This research aims to generate evidence of the safety of biologic medicines including risk, quantifying risk and identifying factors that modify risk of adverse events. |
| 155-19 Official History of Australian military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and the wider Middle East (2001 to 2014) | LTCOL Floyd Australian War Memorial | This activity seeks to use interview transcripts from previous approved research to inform a report <i>Official History of Australian Military Operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Wider Middle East (2001 to 2014)</i> . |
| 158-19 Families with a veteran: A qualitative needs analysis and a model of care for navigating the network of ex-service organisations and veterans' services that support their health and wellbeing | Dr Angela Maguire Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation | This study aims to investigate the needs of families with a veteran, identify the services veteran families can access, create a service map documenting the services currently delivered to veteran families by the collaborating partners and ultimately identify gaps in service. |
| 159-19 An investigation of the relationship between employment and wellbeing in transitioning Australian Defence Force veterans | Dr Mark Hinton Phoenix Australia | The study aims to examine associations between employment status and psychological wellbeing among veterans, in the first six months following transition out of the ADF. |
| 160-19 Improving pilot training through presenting objective real-time information on student fighter pilot's eye scanning behaviour to instructors | Dr Kyle Wilson Seeing Machines | This research aims to investigate whether the use of an eye-tracking system can benefit instructors and enhance the training outcomes of pilot candidates. |

| Protocol number and title | Principal Investigator and Institution | Aim |
|---|---|--|
| 161-19 The effects of elevated carbon dioxide on submariners during dived operations | CMDR Ninian Melville Defence | This pilot project is proposed to investigate and determine if there are any effects experienced by RAN submariners due to their exposure to increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide during Collins Class Submarine operations. |
| 163-19 Active Choices: A 'stepped-down' program to promote group-based physical activity in Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) clients | Assoc Prof Nicholas Gilson The University of Queensland | This study aims to evaluate Active Choices, a best practice 'stepped down' physical activity (PA) intervention for DVA clients in terms of impact on self-managed PA, psychological health and wellbeing, social inclusion and DVA cost utilisation. |
| 167-19 Predicting Individual Risk for Medial Tibial Stress Syndrome in Australian Defence Force Recruits. A Prospective Cohort Study | Dr Phil Newman University of Canberra | This study will follow ADFA trainees to determine whether there are factors that can predict which 1st year Australian Defence Force Academy recruits will develop Medial Tibial Stress Syndrome? |
| 168-19 Commit to Quit | MAJ Jason Selman HQ 3rd Brigade | This research aims to measure the success of a targeted smoking cessation campaign in an Australian Army Combat Brigade. |
| 169-19 Analysis of Per-and Poly Fluoroalkyl blood test results in ADF members | Dr Catherine Kelaher Health Policy, Programs and Assurance Branch | This research aims to determine if: a. the blood level of Per and Poly Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in ADF members b. blood levels of PFAS are influenced by occupation, gender or age. |
| 177-19 N Noise and Living at Sea; An assessment of 24-hour noise exposure aboard a Royal Australian Navy Huon-Class Minehunter Coastal | Dr Jane Whitelaw University of Wollongong | This study aims to accurately characterise on-duty, off-duty and 24-hour noise exposure as well as Hearing Protection Device adjusted exposure of personnel aboard a Royal Australia Navy, Huon-Class Minehunter Coastal. |
| 186-19 Anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction in the Australian Defence Force | Assoc Prof Colleen Lau | This study aims to: a. describe the epidemiology of those undergoing ACL reconstruction in ADF over time - demographic features, incidence |

| Protocol number and title | Principal Investigator and Institution | Aim |
|--|---|--|
| | Australian National University | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. identify risk factors for poor outcome c. describe the costs to ADF following ACL reconstruction with regards to appointments and days unfit for work. |
| 187-19 Invictus Pathway Program Impact | Dr Katia Ferrar University of South Australia | This research aims to investigate the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. impact of participating in the Invictus Pathways Program™ for participants' (military, veterans and first responders) on physical and mental well-being. b. relationship between the physical and mental wellbeing of Invictus Pathways Program participants. |
| 189-19 Validity of Apple Watch, Garmin Forerunner 935, and GENEActive for measuring energy expenditure during close Quarter Battle training in Special Forces Soldiers | Prof G. Gregory Haff Edith Cowan University | This research aims to assess the validity of wearable activity devices for measuring energy expenditure in military specific training. |
| 190-19 Equipment trial: confidence check for the work of breathing of the oxygen hose used by C-17 loadmasters conducting high altitude parachute operations | Dr Adrian Smith Defence | This study aims to evaluate the acceptability by C-17 loadmasters of a 6 ft hose extension to the 16 ft oxygen hose in use during high-altitude parachute operations, producing an oxygen hose configuration of 22 ft overall. |
| 192-19 Generational Change and the impact on future Defence and High Tech industry recruitment | Dr Cullen Habel University of Adelaide | This research aims to analyse whether generational differences in Generation Z will impact future recruitment, with a specific focus on ADF aircrew. |

ANNEX B – COMPLETED RESEARCH

| Protocol number and title | Principal Investigator and Institution |
|---|---|
| 762-14 Serving in Silence - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Military Service in Australia Since 1945 | Dr Noah Riseman Australian Catholic University |
| 024-17 Per and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): a focus group study | Assoc Prof Martyn Kirk Australian National University |
| E009/012 Causal Effect of Vietnam War Era Conscripton on Economic and Social Outcomes | Dr Peter Siminski University of Wollongong |
| 739-13 Measuring the Effectiveness of the In-hospital and New On-base Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth programs in Reducing Alcohol-Related Harms in Young Naval Trainees | Prof Jeffrey Rosenfeld Monash University |
| 756-14 The Use of Kinematic and Kinetic Analysis Measurement to Identify the Critical Factors in Optimising Dismounted Combatant Load Sharing Systems | Dr Timothy Doyle Macquarie University |
| E017/003 Evaluation of the PTSD Coach Australia App by serving and ex-serving Defence members | Prof David Kavanagh Queensland University of Technology |
| E017/004 Evaluation of the PTSD Australia App by Clinicians | Prof David Kavanagh Queensland University of Technology |
| E010/010 Centre for Excellence/ Future fellowship Ethics Application | Assoc Prof Elizabeth Roughead University of South Australia |

| Protocol number and title | Principal Investigator and Institution |
|---|---|
| 18-002 Characterisation of the impact of the Super Hornet and Growler flight environment on respiratory function | Dr Adrian Smith Institute of Aviation Medicine |
| E016/013 ANZAC Rituals - Secular, Modern, Sacred | Prof Stephen Garton University of Sydney |
| E017/007 Exploring the relationship between Autonomic Arousal and Response to Magnetic Stimulation Treatments for Affective Disorders | Prof Paul Fitzgerald Monash University |
| E015/014 INSIPRED: Investigating Services Provided in the Residential Care Environment for Dementia | Dr Emmanuel Gnanamanickam Flinders University |
| 055-18 Per and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): a focus group study (Katherine, NT) | Assoc Prof Martyn Kirk Australian National University |
| 16-004 An Investigation of the Childhood Determinants of Mental Health in Military Personnel | Dr Miranda Van Hooff University of Adelaide |
| 794-15 Associations Between Physical Fitness, Injury Patterns and the Physical Conditioning Curriculum at the Royal Military College | Assoc Prof Jeremy Witchalls University of Canberra |
| 057-18 An investigation of the childhood determinants of mental health in transitioned and current serving Australian Defence Force personnel | Dr Miranda Van Hooff University of Adelaide |
| 072-18 Attitudinal survey of Australian Defence Force Academy Officer Cadets and Midshipmen on the adoption of autonomous systems | Dr Jai Galliot University of New South Wales |

| Protocol number and title | Principal Investigator and Institution |
|--|---|
| 088-18 Benefits Realisation and It's Applicability in Practice | Dr Alireza Abbasi University of New South Wales |
| 089-18 Examining the effectiveness of the enhanced combat shooting course on shooting accuracy | Mr Brian Heilbronn James Cook University |