



Australian Firefighters' Health Study Bulletin No 5

Welcome to the fifth bulletin of the Australian Firefighters' Health Study, a publication designed to keep you informed about the progress of the Australian Firefighters' Health Study.

Study progress

The study has made progress on several fronts:

- The fourth Advisory Committee meeting took place in December 2013. The purpose of this meeting was to review data issues and discuss different methods of exposure assessment.
- Ethics approval from all state and territory Cancer Registry Human Research Ethics Committees (HREC) and the AIHW HREC have been obtained.
- Approval from the Justice Department - National Coronial Information System (NCIS) HREC has been granted. The NCIS approval is needed in order to obtain death codes for the cases that have been referred to the coroner.
- The final dataset of individuals in the cohort has been sent to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) for linkage with the Australian Cancer Database (ACD) and the National Death Index (NDI).
- Monash has received the NDI linkage results and we are currently reviewing the death matches. Two members of the study team are carrying out a clerical review of the almost 30,000 possible matches. This means comparing these possible matches against names of people in the cohort to pick out the true matches. Any differences in the set of matches between the two comparisons will be examined by a third person. This will ensure a high quality matching process.
- Monash expects to receive the cancer matches from the AIHW in February. The AIHW carries out the clerical review of cancer matches to ensure privacy
- As part of the discussion of different exposure assessment metrics, Monash has sent out an exposure group questionnaire to all agencies asking for their input. Most of the agencies have provided complete replies.
- Incident data attributable to individuals from the cohort has been received from all relevant agencies.

To learn more about the study or to find copies of this and other bulletins, visit our study website: <http://www.coeh.monash.org/ausfirefr.html>. If you have any questions or comments, please send an email to firefighterstudy@monash.edu.

In this Issue:

Study data has been sent to AIHW for linkage