



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

Participating agencies

Following discussion at the last Advisory Committee and subject to contact finalisation, firefighters from the Department of Defence will be included in the study. Subject to remaining contractual matters, the study cohort will consist of data held by following nine firefighting agencies and the Department of Defence:

- ACT Emergency Services
- Airservices Australia
- Country Fire Authority
- Fire and Emergency Services Authority, WA
- Fire and Rescue NSW
- Metropolitan Fire & Emergency Services Board, Melbourne
- NSW Rural Fire Service
- NT Fire and Rescue Service
- Queensland Fire and Rescue Service
- Department of Defence

Study progress

The study has made further progress on several fronts:

- Recent efforts at Monash have concentrated on obtaining the outstanding datasets and on data cleaning to prepare the data for analysis.
- Most agencies have provided a dataset including necessary information such as names, dates of birth and post code of firefighters and service history information such as job title, number and type of fires attended.
- We have established a single study database and uploaded some data into it.
- We have drawn up procedures for data validation and querying to ensure that we have a good quality final dataset suitable for analysis and data linkage.
- Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC) annual report has been submitted in November 2012. The MUHREC amendment (inclusion of CFA & Defence) has been approved.
- Ethics applications have been submitted to most of the state and territory Cancer Registry HRECs. Approval has been granted by the NT Department of Health and Menzies School of Health Research, the NSW Population and Health Ethics Committee, the Department of Health WA HREC, the Australian Defence HREC and the Department of Veteran Affairs HREC.
- When we have approval from the state and territory Cancer Registry HRECs we will submit applications to the Justice HREC and the AIHW HRECs for their approval

In this Issue:

The data collection phase is well underway

Participating agencies

Study progress

Study progress (cont.)

- Provided that the agencies' data are received in a timely manner, and all the ethics approvals are in place, it is planned to undertake the linkage to the Australian Cancer Database and National Death Index by the end of 2013.
- The CFA and MFB opt-out advertisement was published in November 2012, as agreed at a meeting with the Victorian Privacy Commissioner. Individuals who did not wish their details to be sent to Monash could register their wish to opt-out of the study with the CFA or MFB by mid-January 2013.
- We have agreed to add trainers and instructors from CFA Fiskville to the study.
- The third Advisory Committee meeting is likely to be arranged for April 2013 after receipt of the data from all agencies
- We anticipate holding the first Scientific Reference Group meeting in March 2013.
- Prof Sim and A/Prof Glass have agreed to present on the Study at the UFU International Forum on Occupational Cancer in Firefighters.

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.