



# Health & Welfare information for members of the public

The Professor Joy Report

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## Introduction

CFA has received the report of the Independent Investigation into the CFA facility at Fiskville (1971 – 1999) by Professor Robert Joy. It is titled “Understanding the Past to Inform the Future”, which is a challenge that we accept.

In accepting the facts, conclusions and recommendations of the Report, CFA has developed the package enclosed to provide you with information about a variety of health and welfare services that you may wish to access.

Importantly the Report does not, and was not designed to; establish a link between the use of materials at Fiskville such as flammable liquids and health effects. It does however conclude that some groups of people, namely practice area drill workers and full-time instructors at Fiskville had high overall risk of exposure to a range of materials that contain hazardous chemicals. Trainees, other staff, residents and those who were off-site experienced low to negligible levels of exposure.

Since completion of the report by Professor Robert Joy a range of activities have occurred and further information can be found at the following website

<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/about/fiskville-investigation/>

A health check is available to those eligible a health check to the following groups who attended Fiskville and consider they might be at risk or have concerns:

- Career and volunteer members involved in practical firefighting
- Other CFA employees and residents
- Students, teachers and trainees including personnel from organisations other than the CFA, e.g. VicSES, Parks Victoria, etc.
- Persons from off-site including neighbours and contractors who regularly attended Fiskville

If you have further questions, please contact the Fiskville Health & Welfare Hotline on 1800 628 616. The hotline provides access to up to date information on services available.

In addition to the information in this pack, you may also wish to contact your employer about their Employee Assistance Services.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

### Welfare Support

The following is a list of services that are available to you.

Service	Description	Contact
General Practitioner	For general physical or mental health issues, a GP can provide advice and guidance on physical and mental health issues.	Your local doctor
Counselling	A counsellor is a trained professional who can help you work out your personal problems. The counsellor helps you to resolve your problems in a positive way by helping you to clarify the issues, explore options, develop strategies and increase self-awareness. Counselling is usually a short-term treatment for a specific problem.	Your local doctor  Visit the Psychotherapy & Counselling Federation of Australia to choose a qualified counsellor <a href="http://www.pacfa.org.au/">http://www.pacfa.org.au/</a>
Psychiatrist	A psychiatrist is a qualified medical doctor who has obtained additional qualifications to become a specialist in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illness and emotional problems.  Because of their extensive medical and psychiatric training, psychiatrists are able to view illness in an integrated way by taking into consideration the related aspects of body and mind.	If you feel you need to see a psychiatrist, you must first see your doctor (general practitioner) for a referral and to discuss your treatment options.

Service	Description	Contact
Psychology	<p>Everyday problems, such as work stress, relationship troubles and coping with illness, can seriously affect your life. Addressing these concerns is vital to enjoying life and good relationships.</p> <p>Psychologists can help with these situations. They equip people with the skills needed to function better and to prevent problems.</p>	<p>A GP can write you a referral to see a psychologist or psychiatrist. The GP would first determine your mental health needs and if appropriate will write you a referral under a Mental Health Plan.</p> <p><a href="https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/mental-health-care-plans">https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/mental-health-care-plans</a></p> <p>*Medicare rebate is available in certain circumstances and you should discuss this with your GP</p> <p>Visit the Australian Psychological Society web page for more information on locating a psychologist</p> <p><a href="http://www.psychology.org.au/FindaPsychologist/">http://www.psychology.org.au/FindaPsychologist/</a></p>
Department of Health	<p>The department's core objective is to achieve the best health and wellbeing for all Victorians. This is accomplished through planning, policy development, funding and regulation of health service providers and activities which promote and protect Victorians' health, including health care services provided through the public hospital system, community health services, ambulance services, dental services and public mental health, drug and alcohol services</p>	<p>Phone: 1300 25 39 42</p> <p><a href="http://www.health.vic.gov.au/contact.htm">http://www.health.vic.gov.au/contact.htm</a></p>

Service	Description	Contact
Lifeline	Lifeline is a phone service that offers confidential support and advice for people dealing with stress and personal challenges. Lifeline counsellors have counselling training.	Phone: 13 11 14  <a href="http://www.lifeline.org.au">http://www.lifeline.org.au</a>
Beyondblue	Beyondblue provides expert information on depression; how to recognize it, how to get help, how to help someone else and how to stay well.	Phone: 1300 22 46 36  <a href="http://www.beyondblue.org.au">http://www.beyondblue.org.au</a>
MensLine	MensLine is a telephone support, information and referral service, designed to help men to deal with relationship problems in a practical and effective way.	Phone: 1300 78 99 78  <a href="http://www.mensline.org.au">http://www.mensline.org.au</a>
Better Health Channel	The Better Health Channel provides health and medical information to help individuals and their communities improve their health and wellbeing. Fact sheets are available on a variety of topics, including trauma and stress.	<a href="http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/">http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/</a>
Kids Helpline	Kids Helpline is a free, confidential and anonymous telephone service. It also provides real time online counselling and emailing for young people aged between 5 and 25	Phone: 1800 55 18 00  <a href="http://www.kidshelp.com.au/">http://www.kidshelp.com.au/</a>

Service	Description	Contact
NURSE-ON-CALL	The NURSE-ON-CALL telephone service provides immediate, expert health advice from a registered nurse	Phone: 1300 60 60 24  <a href="http://www.health.vic.gov.au/nurseoncall/">http://www.health.vic.gov.au/nurseoncall/</a>

## LOCAL COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

### Ballarat, Geelong & Melton Areas

Similar services are available in each municipality. Contact your local municipality and ask for the Community Health Section. They can provide you with local services.

Health Region	Purpose	Location	Contact
Melton Area	<b>Djerriwarrh Health Services</b>  Promotes health and wellbeing in the community and provides quality and affordable health services	Bacchus Marsh & Melton Regional Hospital 29 -35 Grant Street, Bacchus Marsh 3340	Phone: 03 5367 2000 Fax: 03 5367 4537
		Melton Health 195-209 Barries Road Melton West 3337	Phone: 03 9747 7600 Fax: 03 8746 2072
		Bacchus Marsh Community Health Centre Turner Street, Bacchus Marsh 3340	Phone: 03 5367 9674 Fax: 03 5367 4274
		Caroline Springs Community Health Centre Level 1, 13-15 Lake Street Caroline Springs 3023	Phone: 03 9361 9300 Fax: 03 9361 9399
		Melton Community Health Centre Cnr High & Yuille Streets, Melton 3337	Phone: 03 8746 1100 Fax: 03 9743 8640



<b>Health Region</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>Ballarat Area</b>	<b>Ballarat Health Services</b>  Promotes health and wellbeing in the community and provides quality and affordable health services	Aprotch Cnr Queen Street & Dyte Parade, Ballarat	Phone: 03 5338 4500 Fax: 03 5332 1044
		Ballarat City 710 Sturt Street, Ballarat	Phone: 03 5338 4500 Fax: 03 5332 6617
		Wendouree (Cooinda) 10 Learmonth Road, Wendouree	Phone: 03 5338 4500 Fax: 03 5339 3044
		Sebastopol 260 Vickers Street, Sebastopol	Phone: 03 5338 4500 Fax: 03 5336 1613
		Wendouree (Grevillea Rd) 1223 Grevillea Road, Wendouree	Phone: 03 5338 4500 Fax: 03 5333 8412
		Smythesdale The Well 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale	Phone: 03 5338 4500 Fax: 03 5342 8693
		GP Clinic Cooinda 10 Learmonth Road, Wendouree	Phone: 03 5338 4585
		GP Clinic Sebastopol 260 Vickers Street, Sebastopol	Phone: 03 5338 4585
		GP Clinic Smythesdale The Well 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale	Phone: 03 5338 4585

Health Region	Purpose	Location	Contact
<b>Geelong Area</b>	<b>Barwon Health</b> Barwon Health cover the full spectrum of health services Promotes health and wellbeing in the community and provides quality and affordable health services	Various locations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corio</li> <li>• Belmont</li> <li>• Newcombe</li> <li>• Torquay</li> <li>• Anglesea</li> </ul>	Phone: 1300 715 673

## Community Financial Services

There are a number of government programs that provide financial support and assistance in the case of proven hardship.

Service	Description	Contact
MoneyHelp	MoneyHelp offers free, confidential and independent financial information for Victorians experiencing difficulty paying their rent or mortgage or facing job loss.	Phone: 1800 00 70 07  <a href="http://www.moneyhelp.org.au/">http://www.moneyhelp.org.au/</a>
Financial & Consumer Rights Council	The Financial and Consumer Rights Council can provide free, confidential and independent financial counselling that can help people to manage debts and balance their budgets. It can also assist with lodging insurance claims and can provide information on your rights dealing with banks	Phone: (03) 9663 2000  <a href="http://fcrc.org.au/">http://fcrc.org.au/</a>
Utility relief schemes	The Utility Relief Grant Scheme and the Non mains Utility Relief Grant Scheme provides assistance for domestic customers who are unable to pay their utility bills due to a temporary financial crisis	Phone: 1800 65 85 21 Concessions Information Line
Mortgage Relief	The Mortgage Relief Scheme is a short term interest free loan to help people keep up their home loan repayments after and unavoidable decrease in their income	Phone: 1800 13 48 72  <a href="http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/housing-and-accommodation/home-owner-support/mortgage-relief">http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/housing-and-accommodation/home-owner-support/mortgage-relief</a>
Centrelink	There are a range of payments and services to support you in an emergency or crisis situation.	Phone: 131 794  <a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/subjects/crisis-and-special-help">http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/subjects/crisis-and-special-help</a>

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION INTO THE CFA FACILITY AT FISKVILLE (1971 – 1999)

1. The role of the Chair is to investigate and provide an independent report to the Board and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of CFA. The investigation and subsequent report is to:

- (a) examine and consider the historical facts relating to the nature, acquisition and use of liquids, gases or solids (with particular emphasis on flammable substances and extinguishing agents, including but not limited to water, foam and dry powders) for live firefighting training at Fiskville. In doing so, the report is to set out a chronology of events, reports and documents about the management of the site at Fiskville, along with a listing of the identified flammable substances and extinguishing agents;
- (b) identify and list any documents or reports that contain comments on or recommendations about the use and disposal of flammable substances and extinguishing agents used for live firefighting training at Fiskville and on the management of fire water generated in such training; to the extent that it can be determined, report on how effectively each comment or recommendation was acted upon; and, where no action was taken, comment on the reasons for and implications of such lack of action;
- (c) identify the origins of the flammable substances (paying particular attention to the likelihood of the substances being contaminated with material such as heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants, e.g. polychlorinated biphenyls); report on how they were stored, used and disposed of; and assess the likelihood of the use and management of flammable substances and extinguishing agents having led to the contamination of air, land or groundwater at, under or beyond the Fiskville facility;
- (d) identify the nature and extent of exposure to the flammable substances (and their combustion products), extinguishing agents and fire water of persons on-site and in surrounding areas that could have potentially been impacted by contaminated runoff or wind drift; and, to the extent practicable, list persons who may have been exposed;
- (e) on the basis of available information, assess the risk that there are buried flammable substances drums and/or other related contaminants on the site; where possible identify the location of such materials and make recommendations about any clean up and remediation required; identify where information is considered to be inadequate to enable a

risk assessment and recommend action to improve the information base (which may include carrying out exploratory sampling of soils).

2. The Chair will have open access to all documents, systems and studies held or accessible to CFA; access to all people employed or associated with CFA or the site, past and present (subject to their willingness to participate in the investigation); and access to all CFA resources necessary to thoroughly investigate and provide the report to fulfil these Terms of Reference (including the procurement of specialist and any other external resources as required).
3. The report is to be completed and submitted to the Board and CEO of CFA by 31 March 2012 and following consideration by the Board and the CEO of CFA, the report will be made public.
4. These Terms of Reference may be expanded to include other training sites if deemed necessary.