

# INPLASY

## Affective disorders including depression in Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel 2002-2023: A systematic review of incidence, prevalence and risk factors

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### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Support** - Department of Defence.

**Review Stage at time of this submission** - Risk of bias assessment.

**Conflicts of interest** - None declared.

**INPLASY registration number:** INPLASY202420078

**Amendments** - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 19 February 2024 and was last updated on 19 February 2024.

### INTRODUCTION

**Review question / Objective** The purpose of the study was to determine the extent of previous health research involving affective disorders amongst Australian Defence Force personnel.

**Condition being studied** Affective disorders including depression are among the more common mental health disorders in serving and veteran personnel, and were identified as the outcome of interest.

### METHODS

**Participant or population** Serving or transitioning members of the Australian Defence Force. (ADF).

**Intervention** This study was not limited to any particular intervention.

**Comparator** There were no restrictions on comparators - these could be within the Australian Defence Force, or the general population.

**Study designs to be included** All study designs were included.

**Eligibility criteria** Papers needed to include the following: serving or transitioning ADF personnel, mention affective disorders as a health outcome.

**Information sources** The following electronic databases, along with bibliographies of included papers, were searched: MEDLINE, Embase, PsycInfo, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, Web of Science.

**Main outcome(s)** The main outcome is to determine the degree of previous research into the incidence, prevalence, risk factors and treatment of affective disorders within the ADF.

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**Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis** The Johanna Briggs Institute risk of bias tools, specific to each study design, were used to assess the risk of bias.

**Strategy of data synthesis** Given the heterogenous nature of the retrieved articles, a descriptive analysis will be provided for the data.

**Subgroup analysis** There will be no subgroup analysis.

**Sensitivity analysis** There will be no sensitivity analysis.

**Country(ies) involved** Australia.

**Keywords** affective disorders, Australian Defence Force, military, depression, anxiety.

#### **Contributions of each author**

Author 1 - Helen Kelsall - Author 1 was involved in the search strategy and screening of articles, the data extraction, data analysis, and the risk of bias assessment. They also drafted the manuscript.

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