



GROUP PROCEEDING SUMMARY STATEMENT
ADF 3M COMBAT EARPLUG CLASS ACTION

Case: S ECI 2024 05154

Filed on: 15/07/2026 01:46 PM

1. What is the class action about?

This class action concerns the Combat Arms Earplugs (**CAE**) supplied to Australian Defence Force (**ADF**) personnel from 2005 to the present. The class action focuses on whether the named defendants (**collectively, 3M**) manufactured, distributed, and/or supplied CAE to ADF members, employees, and contractors. It is alleged that the CAE were defective, not fit for purpose, and not of acceptable quality under Australian consumer legislation, and as a result, the failure of protection of the CAE have led to total or partial hearing loss, tinnitus, vestibular disturbance and/or other forms of ear damage.

2. Who is a group member?

You are automatically a group member in the class action if you were an ADF member, employee or contractor, were supplied with dual-ended, non-linear earplugs that were manufactured by or on behalf of 3M, and you suffered some form of harm to their hearing as a result of their use of the Earplugs, including but not limited to harm in the nature of tinnitus, hearing loss and vestibular disturbance.

If you wish to participate and be entitled to receive compensation, you will be required to register your claim.

A notice will be distributed explaining what are known as “opt out” and “registration” processes, your rights and options, and any steps that you are required to take in due course.

3. What is the role and responsibility of the plaintiff?

The Lead Plaintiff, Samuel Cook, receives advice from and provide instructions to Shine Lawyers about the case on behalf of group members. The Lead Plaintiff provides instructions about key stages in the proceeding, including in relation to any offer of settlement.

The Lead Plaintiff has overarching obligations to act honestly, avoid undue delay and expense, and to exercise best endeavors to take steps to resolve the proceeding.

In the event that this class action does not settle prior to trial if the class action proceeds, the Lead Plaintiff may be required to provide evidence regarding his individual claim or claims.

4. Who is the law firm acting for the plaintiff?

Shine Lawyers is acting for the Lead Plaintiff and group members in this class action.

5. Are there other class actions or class action investigations against 3M?

Shine Lawyers is not aware of any other law firms that have announced a class actions against 3M related to allegations similar to those in this class action.

6. Who can I contact to get further information?

Group members may contact Shine Lawyers, at no out-of-pocket cost, via:

Email: ADFEarplugsClassAction@shine.com.au

Phone number: 1800 325 172

Website: <https://www.shine.com.au/service/class-actions/adf-3m-combat-earplug-class-action>