



Australian Government

DEFENCE ABUSE RESPONSE TASKFORCE

AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Defence Abuse Response Taskforce is to operate, in accordance with the following terms of reference, effective from 1 July 2015 until 31 December 2015.

The Taskforce is to:

- (a) assess any outstanding complaints of sexual and other forms of abuse by Defence personnel alleged to have occurred prior to 11 April 2011 (the date of the announcement of the DLA Piper's *Report of the Review of allegations of sexual and other forms of abuse in the Australian Defence Force*) and registered with the Taskforce by 31 May 2013 or complaints from women who experienced sexual abuse at ADFA during the period 1991 and 1998 and registered with the Taskforce by 15 September 2015 and conclude by 30 September 2015 any outstanding assessments of those complaints;
- (b) determine, in close consultation with those who have made complaints, appropriate actions in response to those complaints;
- (c) conclude by 30 September 2015 any outstanding assessments of reparation payments (except for the abovementioned ADFA complaints);
- (d) conclude by 30 September 2015 any outstanding referrals of appropriate matters to police or military justice authorities for formal criminal investigation and assessment for prosecution (except for the abovementioned ADFA complaints);
- (e) conclude by 30 September 2015 any outstanding referrals to the Chief of the Defence Force for possible administrative or disciplinary action (except for the abovementioned ADFA complaints);
- (f) conclude the above mentioned ADFA complaints under paragraphs (c), (d) and (e) by 31 December 2015;
- (g) conclude as soon as possible the provision of restorative engagement conferences;

- (h) conclude as soon as possible the provision of counselling;
- (i) as appropriate, gather additional information relevant to consideration of the handling of particular allegations e.g. relevant records held by Defence;
- (j) take account of the rights and interests of complainants, alleged abusers and other parties;
- (k) liaise with the Minister for Defence, Chief of the Defence Force, Secretary of the Department of Defence and the Sex Discrimination Commissioner on any implications of its work for Defence's 'Pathway to Change,' and other responses to the series of reviews into Defence culture and practices; and in particular for the consideration of the Sex Discrimination Commissioner's report in response to the Taskforce's recommendation in its *Report on abuse in Defence* regarding a Royal Commission into ADFA;
- (l) provide a final report to the Minister for Defence and Minister for Justice by 31 December 2015 on complaints of abuse received by the Taskforce, the completion of its delivery of remaining actions in response to those complaints and any other matters relevant to the Taskforce's operations; and,
- (m) do anything incidental to or conducive to the performance of any of the above matters and finalisation of its work.

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THE HON KEVIN ANDREWS MP
Minister for Defence

DATED:

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THE HON MICHAEL KEENAN MP
Minister for Justice

DATED: