

Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Inquiry into suicide by veterans and ex-service personnel – 6 February 2017

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: The Prime Ministers Veterans' Employment Initiative

Question reference number: 4

Senator: Lambie

Type of question: asked on Monday, 6 February 2017, Hansard page 26

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 24 February 2017

Question:

Vice Adm. Griggs: Our responsibility is to prepare people for the transition, to provide them with information during the transition process about what is available such as helping them with their CVs—we provide assistance to people with preparing their CVs—so they can go into the job market. The veterans employment initiative is the other side of that. It is encouraging large companies, small companies to give veterans a go.

Senator LAMBIE: Yes, but what is your involvement in that? That is what I am asking. I understand you do the CV's. We have been doing them for years. We can walk out with those and we are very grateful for that. I am just asking: what are you people actually doing as your part to get these jobs? What is your part in the Prime Minister's so-called jobs initiative?

Vice Adm. Griggs: It is not a so-called initiative; it is an initiative. It is a very good one.

Senator LAMBIE: How many jobs have already been taken up?

Vice Adm. Griggs: I have not got the detail on that.

Answer:

- (a) What is the Department of Defence's involvement in the Prime Minister's jobs initiative?

The aim of the Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Initiative is to provide practical measures to embed veterans' employment strategies into the recruitment practices of Australian business.

While the Department of Veterans' Affairs is the lead agency implementing the Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Initiative, the Department of Defence worked closely with the Department of Veterans' Affairs in the lead-up to the launch of the Veterans' Employment Program on 17 November 2016.

Defence continues to support the Department of Veterans' Affairs with this initiative. Defence is enhancing the current transition process to provide additional coaching and mentoring services for all members separating. This will provide a more tailored approach to coach individuals through the transition process and assist, when appropriate, to prepare the member to be able to seek and obtain employment. Implementation on launch sites at Townsville, Holsworthy and Adelaide will commence in March 2017.

Defence will also reinforce the mandate that members separating from the Australian Defence Force are to participate in the transition process and leave with appropriate separation documentation. This will include an individualised transition plan, record of service, record of training and employment, final payment and leave entitlement summaries, and copies of medical records

(b) How many jobs have already been taken up?

Defence is not aware of how many jobs have been taken up.

The Government, including Defence, will not have any direct role in job placement activities which may occur between serving or former Australian Defence Force members and prospective employers. It will be the role of the Industry Advisory Committee, with support from Defence, to promote the skills and attributes of veterans to prospective industry employers.