

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Review of the Defence Annual Report 2015-16 – 17 February 2017

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: Women in Combat Roles - SASR

Question reference number: 14

Senator: Feeney

Type of question: asked on Friday, 17 February 2017, Hansard page 54

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 14 March 2017

Question:

Mr FEENEY: What about SASR?

Rear Adm. Wolski: I will have to take that on notice to get the latest there. To answer your question before regarding senior officers: there are 70 senior officers that are female, which is growing slowly. Over the last 12 months, we have increased that number by between five and 10.

Answer:

Women have been able to undertake the selection process for service in Special Forces roles since January 2014. While there are currently no women allocated to Employment Category Number 353 - SAS Trooper, women are currently serving within the Special Air Service Regiment in support roles.