



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

DEFENCE SUB-COMMITTEE

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE

Inquiry into transition from the Australian Defence Force

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Parliamentary inquiry into transition from the ADF

A new Parliamentary inquiry will examine the support provided to members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) as they transition from active service to civilian life.

The inquiry will be conducted by the Defence Sub-Committee of Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. The Sub-Committee is chaired by Senator Linda Reynolds CSC.

Senator Reynolds said the inquiry will examine the efficacy of support services available to members of the ADF transitioning out of active service, particularly focussing on mental health care, employment pathways and the role of Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs). This includes whether there is adequate support for reservists and for regular personnel who transition to the reserves following full time service. The inquiry will also consider whether the services provided adequately cater to the needs of women transitioning from the ADF to the extent that their experiences may be different from those of men.

"The Committee recognises that the Australian Government has introduced a number of measures to support veterans when they leave the ADF and move into the next phase of their lives," Senator Reynolds said.

"This inquiry will examine whether these existing measures and services are providing the support veterans need to continue active and productive civilian lives. The inquiry aims to improve the services available to ensure all our veterans have access to mental health care and employment opportunities, including whether there could be a greater role for ESOs in providing ongoing support."

The Defence Sub-Committee invites submissions from anyone with an interest in the issues raised by the terms of reference, which are available on the committee's website. Submissions addressing the terms of reference should be lodged by **13 July 2018**. Further details about the inquiry, including how to contribute, can also be obtained from the [Committee's website](#), or by contacting the Committee Secretariat.

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For background:

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