



THE HON MATT KEOGH MP
MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE PERSONNEL

MB24-000080

Senator Raff Ciccone
Chair
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Chair,

**ADAPTIVE SPORT PROGRAMS FOR AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE
VETERANS REPORT**

Thank you for the work of the Committee on the 'Adaptive sport programs for Australian Defence Force (ADF) veterans' inquiry. The Government acknowledges the tabling of the Committee's report on 8 May 2023.

The benefits of sport for physical and mental health are widely acknowledged, particularly during recovery and rehabilitation. Through sport and recreation, veterans and families have the opportunity to integrate into supportive communities. The Government acknowledges this can play an important role in re-establishing a sense of purpose and belonging, which can serve as significant challenges for veterans transitioning from the ADF. Additionally, sports can serve as a common goal for a community, and Defence and veteran families can embrace the shared values of respect and teamwork.

Noting the aforementioned benefits, adaptive sports are variations on classic sports with the inclusion of modifications, where necessary, to allow people with physical injuries and disabilities the opportunity to participate independently with confidence and comfort.

As previously stated, the Government will consider the Committee's report and its recommendations in the broader context of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide, which is due to present its final report by 9 September 2024.

Yours faithfully,

HON MATT KEOGH MP

27 March 2024