

Question on notice no. 98

Portfolio question number: 102

2017-18 Additional estimates

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee, Defence Portfolio

Senator Fraser Anning: asked the Department of Defence on 28 February 2018—

(1. Is it true that an indigenous Navy Defence member expressed a statement on Facebook in early 2017 that made reference to spitting on the Australian flag and that also contained an image of her in uniform?

2. Was this sailor charged?

3. What was the outcome of those charges?

4. Did this sailor subsequently have a meeting with any senior Defence leaders?

5. Please provide details of any such meetings?

6. Was this sailor subsequently sent at Defence expense to attend any sporting events?

7. What was the cost of attendance at this event?

8. Were any other Defence members charged in relation to this incident, including for expressing views as a result of the sailor's statement?

9. What were the outcomes of those charges?

Answer —

1. Yes.

2. Yes. The sailor was charged under the Defence Force Discipline Act 1982.

3. The sailor was disciplined under the summary discipline system. Further detail cannot be provided under the Privacy Act 1988.

4. No.

5. N/A

6. Yes. The sailor was selected, based upon her merits as a player, to be part of the HMAS *Cairns* rugby squad which participated in Mons Cup Rugby 29 March - 1 April 2017 in Sydney. Additionally, she attended the Navy Rugby League Women's Development Camp in Sydney 16-18 August 2017.

7. \$402.50 for attendance at the Mons Cup Rugby and \$333.77 for attendance at the Navy Rugby League Women's Development Camp.

8. No.

9. N/A.