

**Opening Statement to the Senate Budget Estimates Committee by  
Ms Jan Mason, Managing Director, Defence Housing Australia on 30 May 2017**

- It is with great sadness I wish to advise the Committee that Defence Housing Australia's (DHA) highly esteemed Chief Financial Officer, Mr Jon Brocklehurst, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday 30 April 2017.
- In addition to being the CFO, Mr Brocklehurst oversaw DHA's corporate functions, including IT and HR.
- Mr Brocklehurst first joined DHA in November 1999 as our Financial Controller.
- After four years, he took a position at the Australian Customs Service then moved to the Australian Federal Police but returned to DHA in March 2011 as our Chief Financial Officer and Head of Corporate Services.
- Mr Brocklehurst was an integral part of the organisation's core values and professional culture. He was highly respected and very well liked within DHA and by those external to DHA who had dealings with him.
- I welcomed Mr Brocklehurst's wise counsel, professionalism, knowledge, work commitment, loyalty, honesty, compassion for people and friendship. We all feel the loss.
- I am particularly proud of the efforts of DHA staff during this difficult time. They supported each other well during this very difficult time and worked to ensure the organisation continued to function effectively and that customer service levels were not affected.
- Mr Brocklehurst was a devoted husband to Pauline and father to their three sons, Hugh, Lewis and Chris. Our condolences are with them.



## **Interim arrangements**

- I have put interim arrangements in place to cover Mr Brocklehurst's former responsibilities and allow time to run a recruitment process. The interim arrangements are as follows:
  - Mr Elvio Bechelli is acting in the role of Chief Financial Officer, undertaking finance-related tasks. This includes oversight of the Finance function, as well as Strategic Planning and Valuation Services and Investment Management and Funding Strategies.
  - Ms Suzanne Pitson, General Manager Sales and Marketing, is overseeing Communication and Client Relations.
  - People and Capability and IT are reporting directly to me for the time being.
- I will shortly engage with DHA staff about appropriate longer term arrangements.