

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS– OCTOBER 2016

Finance and Public Administration Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

Outcome/Program:

Outcome 1. Fair and accountable administrative action by Australian Government entities and prescribed private sector organisations, by investigating complaints, reviewing administrative action and statutory compliance inspections and reporting.

Topic: Defence Force Ombudsman

Senator: Senator Skye Kakoschke-Moore

Question reference number: 81

Type of question: Written

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2016

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator SKYE KAKOSCHKE-MOORE:

On 2 September 2016 the Government announced the role of the Defence Force Ombudsman (DFO) would expand to provide an independent defence abuse reporting function.

1. How many employees will the DFO have that will specifically deal with defence abuse reports?
2. What training will these employees have?

Answer:

1. As at 31 October 2016, the DFO has 25 staff. Recruitment activity is currently underway. The total number of employees will depend on the number of reports of abuse received.
2. DFO staff will undergo training to ensure that reports of abuse are managed sensitively, efficiently and without causing further harm to complainants. A particular focus is on trauma-informed care and vicarious trauma.