

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: 82

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. Defence abuse victims were previously able to make reports to the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce (DART), who could make an order for reparation payments up to \$50,000. Will the DFO be able to make orders for reparation payments in the same way the DART did? If not, why not?

Answer:

1. The regulation establishing the expanded function of the DFO does not provide the Ombudsman with an explicit power to make an order for a reparation payment.

This was a policy decision of Government.