

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Group: 2

Program: 1.1

Question No. BE15/024

Senator Xenophon asked the following question at the hearing on 27 and 28 May 2015:

Senator XENOPHON: It is by no means a criticism. Obviously, a lot of work has been done. Has the task force been advised by the CDF whether any administrative or disciplinary action has been taken as a result of the information the task force has provided to the CDF?

Mr Hall: The information I have at the moment is that Defence has advised that they have taken or are taking further action. Just to be clear, it includes the ADFA 24 cases which have been dealt with partly as a separate category, and any other cases. So four cases where they are taking further action, involving 15 still serving alleged abusers.

Senator XENOPHON: So you cannot say how many alleged still serving abusers are facing administrative or disciplinary action?

Mr Hall: No. I can tell you that, of the ones that have been referred—the 151 alleged abusers—in relation to 15 there is action being taken, and there are another 98 where Defence is still considering whether to take action.

Senator XENOPHON: Perhaps I will take it up with the CDF.

Mr Hall: Many of those were referred in the last couple of months, so there is somewhat of a large number to get through.

Senator XENOPHON: I understand. If you could provide a time line of when those referrals took place in relation to the numbers of alleged abusers, that would be useful.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

As at 18 May 2015, the Taskforce had referred 110 cases to the Chief of the Defence Force, involving 151 still serving alleged abusers. This includes 15 alleged abusers who were identified in the course of the Taskforce's consideration of sexual abuse at ADFA during the 1990s. These matters were referred to the Chief of the Defence Force in bulk in October 2013 and September 2014.

Below is a breakdown of timeline of referrals of those alleged abusers (to 18 May 2015).

- **ADFA bulk referrals:**
 - 2013: **11**
 - 2014: **4**
- **Other referrals:**
 - 2013 and 2014: **55**
 - January 2015: **18**
 - February 2015: **9**
 - March 2015: **17**
 - April 2015: **23**
 - May 2015 (up to the 18th): **14**