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**Government Response  
to the  
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade  
References Committee**

*'Duties of Australian Personnel in Iraq'*

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE  
AND TRADE REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

*'Duties of Australian Personnel in Iraq'*

**Recommendation 1**

The committee recommends that the ADF review its procedures for instructing personnel about the various codes of conduct, ADF's instructions or Concepts of Operations governing the conduct of Australian personnel while engaged in overseas operations especially where Australian personnel are deployed with third country operations. All Australian personnel must be made aware of their obligations with regard to human rights issues which includes their obligation to report any activity that seems illegal.

**Government Response:**

**Agreed.** Defence already regularly reviews its procedures for instructing personnel about Australia's domestic and international legal obligations and national policy governing the conduct of Australian personnel while engaged in overseas operations. All Defence personnel are instructed to report any suspected abuse observed on overseas operations no matter how it comes to their attention.

For ADF personnel on a third country deployment, Defence legal staff continue to examine relevant host nation laws and policies to determine whether they accord with Australia's international and domestic legal obligations. ADF members proceeding on a third country deployment are given a legal brief on Australia's legal and policy requirements as well as a personalised directive at the commencement of that deployment. This brief and directive includes advice on Australia's obligations under international and domestic law and a direction for any ADF member who becomes aware of an incident that might breach Australia's international obligations to immediately notify that concern or involvement through their chain of command.