

Opening Statement – James Gaynor, Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force

I am an independent statutory office holder. My office sits in the Defence portfolio. The *Defence Act 1903* and the *Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force Regulation 2016* list my functions and powers. Broadly, they are to:

- inquire into or investigate matters concerning the military justice system,
- conduct performance reviews of how ADF units apply the military justice system,
- advise on matters concerning the military justice system including making recommendations for improvements,
- promote military justice values,
- inquire into or investigate the deaths of ADF members, and
- review complaints submitted by ADF members under the statutory redress of grievance scheme.

When compared to the size of Defence, my office is very small.

I have a staff of about 150 people, which includes Australian Public Service employees, and members of the Australian Defence Force. About 40 are full-time and the others part-time, all of whom are made available to me under a statutory arrangement. In short, this means those staff work for me not Defence.

While I do not receive an appropriation, I receive funding from the Department. My office forecasts and advises the amount of funding considered necessary to do its work. To date, the Department has agreed to all of my forecasts.

My budget for this financial year is about \$7.9m, (\$2.8m APS workforce, and \$5.1m operating budget). We do not have a budget for ADF workforce expenses. ADF members are made available to me.

Over the past few years the volume and complexity of my work has changed. My office continues to adapt to the changes. To do this my office has recruited some more staff, and explored ways we can use technology to improve our processes.

My office receives hundreds of submissions and complaints about Defence each year. Because of sensitivities around the content of those complaints, and to maintain the integrity of my work, you will appreciate that there are certain questions I am not able to answer and may have to take on notice.

This may include matters which disclose traumatic information or those matters currently subject to review by my office or others, such as the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, a court or tribunal; and certain historical matters because of information disclosure restrictions under my regulations.