



THE SENATE

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

**Defence honours and awards system**

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Friday 7 February 2025**

**Committee Room 2R1**  
**Australian Parliament House, Canberra**

Time	Witness
9.00 am	<b>Mr Dan Fortune DSC and Bar</b>  <b>Mr Andrew White</b>  <b>Mr Jonathon Beesley</b>  <b>Mr Matthew Brennan</b>
10.00 am	<i>via videoconference:</i> <b>Mr Scott Seccombe</b>
10.30 am	<b>Families of Veterans Guild</b> ( <i>Submission 3</i> ) Ms Renee Wilson, Chief Executive Officer
<b>11.00 am</b>	<i>Morning tea</i>
11.15 am	<i>via videoconference:</i> <b>Dr Paul Taucher</b> ( <i>Submission 2</i> )
11.45 am	<b>Australian Special Forces Alliance</b> ( <i>Submission 5</i> ) Mr Martin Louis Blandy, Full Member Mr Andrew MacNaughton, Director and Welfare Officer
12.15 pm	<b>RSL Australia</b> ( <i>Submission 7</i> ) Major General (retd) Greg Melick, National President  <b>RSL New South Wales</b> ( <i>Submission 6</i> ) Mr David McCann, Director
12.45 pm	<b>Australian Special Air Service Association</b> ( <i>Submission 11</i> ) Mr Rick Moor, Outgoing National Vice Chairman Brig Christopher Roberts, Member
<b>1.15 pm</b>	<i>Lunch</i>

2.00 pm	<b>Department of Defence</b> ( <i>Submission 8</i> ) Rear Admiral Richard Boulton, Deputy Chief of Personnel Ms Petrina Cole, Assistant Secretary Work Health and Safety
	<b>Australian War Memorial</b> ( <i>Submission 9</i> ) Mr Matt Anderson PSM, Director/Agency Head Mr Brian Dawson, Assistant Director - National Collection Branch Mr Nick Fletcher, Head - Military Heraldry and Technology
3.00 pm	<b>Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal</b> ( <i>Submission 1</i> ) Mr Stephen Skehill, Chair Mr Jay Kopplemann, Executive Officer
<b>4.30 pm</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>