



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs



Australian Government
Department of Defence

Committee Secretary
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

This submission is made on behalf of the Defence and Veterans' Affairs portfolios.

Our portfolios welcome the introduction of the *National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention Bill 2020* and the *National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2020*.

One life lost to suicide is one too many, and the loss of a current or former serving member of the Australian Defence Force is deeply felt by the entire Defence and veteran communities.

Addressing the tragedy of suicide is a priority for each of us in our respective leadership roles. The introduction of these Bills to establish a National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention (National Commissioner) provides concrete action toward improving our understanding of the contributing factors and informing strategies to support the prevention of further deaths by suicide.

The Defence and Veterans' Affairs portfolios will provide our absolute support to the National Commissioner and their office.

Yours sincerely

Mr Greg Moriarty
Secretary, Department of Defence

General Angus Campbell, AO, DSC
Chief of the Defence Force

Ms Liz Cosson, AM CSC
Secretary, Department of Veterans' Affairs