

# **Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade**

Review of the Defence Annual Report 2015-16 – 17 February 2017

## **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Department of Defence

**Topic:** Women in Combat Roles - SASR

**Question reference number:** 14

**Senator:** Feeney

**Type of question:** asked on Friday, 17 February 2017, Hansard page 54

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 14 March 2017

### **Question:**

**Mr FEENEY:** What about SASR?

**Rear Adm. Wolski:** I will have to take that on notice to get the latest there. To answer your question before regarding senior officers: there are 70 senior officers that are female, which is growing slowly. Over the last 12 months, we have increased that number by between five and 10.

### **Answer:**

Women have been able to undertake the selection process for service in Special Forces roles since January 2014. While there are currently no women allocated to Employment Category Number 353 - SAS Trooper, women are currently serving within the Special Air Service Regiment in support roles.