

18 November 2012

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Reference: **The report of the review of allegations of sexual and other abuse in Defence, conducted by DLA Piper, and the response of the Government to the report**

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

This short submission is to advise you that I am willing to appear before the Committee to give evidence on this matter.

I have reported two cases of abuse while a member of the Australian Defence Force to the DLA Piper Review; each has been accepted as being 'in scope'.

'Barstardisation' at the RAAF Academy 1964-67

Savage brutalization of cadets, especially those in their first year of service, was the norm at this time, and the practice was institutionalized.

The effects on the productivity of the RAAF Academy and the morale of the cadets were devastating. Of my class, No 17 Course, 35 were recruited, only 6 graduated.

In my third year I wrote a paper to the Academy's Headquarters on the adverse consequences of 'bastardisation' and was promoted to become the Commander of the Cadet Squadron, with instructions to eliminate the practice. This was achieved, but at considerable personal cost.

Many of the RAAF Academy cadets who indulged in the practice of 'bastardisation' became senior officers of the RAAF. I have witnessed, and have been subjected to, forms of 'bastardisation' by these officers, of military and civilian Defence staff, simply for 'doing our job'.

'Black Banning' for Providing Cogent and Timely Advice

I brought this matter to the attention of the Defence Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, in response to a statement by CDF General Hurley that Defence does not blacklist companies.

My evidence is on the Parliamentary Record as Submission 14 to the *Review of the Defence Annual Report 2010-2011*. Here is an excerpt from my submission:

In later evidence, General Hurley made the following response:

Dr JENSEN: *My concern is that one person whose company was blacklisted has been defined as being 'in scope' and another person whose company was blacklisted was defined as being 'out of scope'. Another concern I have is that I registered as being aware of—yet, quite frankly, DLA Piper had no further contact with me. If they do not even have contact with a member of parliament to find out what abuses they are aware of, you have to wonder how diligent they have been outside of that process.*

Gen. Hurley: *Chair, I do not think we can leave standing on the record that the Department of Defence blacklists companies. I do not think that is a statement that really should resonate with any of us.*

Not only does Defence 'blacklist' companies, but it 'blacklists' individuals who attempt to fulfil their professional obligations to secure the Nation's future, but whose views are at variance with the Defence hierarchy. General Hurley was a party to such a blacklisting; one hopes it was an error of omission rather than an error of commission.

The Committee may wish to investigate this matter in the context of the way the Department of Defence, and the Parliament of Australia, is dealing with cases of abuse reported to the DLA Piper Review.

Yours sincerely,

(Transmitted by Email)

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