

Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Impact of Defence training activities and facilities on rural and regional communities – 21 November 2017

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: Helping People Achieve

Question reference number:

Senator: Bridget McKenzie

Type of question: Spoken, Hansard page 35

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 15 December 2017

Question:

Ms Jones: Yes, I would. I'd like to talk about and correct the record regarding the targets in Darwin that you made a comment about earlier—the purchasing of target—

Senator McKENZIE: That were made by the disability—

Ms Jones: Yes, that's true. So, I just want to state that HPA—Helping People Achieve—did have a contract with us to produce wooden targets for our tanks training ranges. As you heard previously, sometimes Defence does over order supplies, and we have at the moment two years of stock currently in our warehouse, so we have not chosen or are sourcing them from China; it's because we actually have no demand at the moment. We had a longer, wetter season, so we didn't use as many. Also the accuracy of our tanks has improved; therefore, we're actually not using as many targets, and the first brigade have moved some of their tanks to South Australia and therefore those targets don't actually attach to the targets in South Australia. The ones in South Australia are made by Koomarri, which is also an organisation that employs people with a disability. I just wanted to put that on the record.

CHAIR: Why wasn't that evidence available to the witness in Darwin when he made the statements he made?

Ms Jones: I can't answer that. I'll have to look into that for you.

Answer:

The Defence witness at the hearing in Darwin required further consultation with the appropriate subject matter expert to understand the specifics prior to providing a response.