

20 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 submission is to advise you that I have detailed experience in the processes used, and abused, by middle ranking and senior level management inside the Department of Defence in conducting vendettas against specific staff. The actions cover the making of false statements, false representations and collusion by a number of senior personnel. These actions cover some the systemic and cultural issues associated with not only the reporting and investigating of abuse but also the abuse of process in initiating such abuse.

I also have experience in Commonwealth practices external to Defence in an attempt to seek redress against unfounded accusations by senior Defence personnel.

I have reported the detail to the DLA Piper Review and apart from the DLA Piper team requesting supporting documentation, which I provided, I have heard nothing further. From the request for supporting documentation I assume that my claim is "in scope".

Subsequent to my leaving the department of Defence I have also been subject to abuse by senior Defence personnel during a Parliamentary Committee process this year by being "verballed". After providing the Committee with proof that what Defence said was false and repeated attempts to have the matter addressed by the Committee and Chair I, as the Managing Director of a small specialist company, am led to the conclusion that the Parliament of Australia may be in a similar state as Defence ie. it fails to call to account those that abuse their position and act in a way contrary to the spirit and letter of the law.

That said, if you wish to hear further detail from me then I would seek assurances that such a situation as I experienced in giving evidence before the Defence sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade would not reoccur.

Yours sincerely,

(Transmitted by Email)

M.R. Price