

# **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:** Mental Health Strategy

**Question reference number:** 15

**Senator:** O'Neill

**Type of question:** asked on Friday, 17 February 2017, Hansard page 58

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

### **Question:**

**Vice Adm. Griggs:** Senator, we are happy to provide you links to those documents that Air Vice Marshal Smart was—

**Senator O'NEILL:** I am aware of those documents and the mental health and wellbeing strategy document. What is the status of that document? There is a 2016 to 2020 strategy, I understand, underway—where is that up to?

**Air Vice Marshal Smart:** The mental health strategy?

**Senator O'NEILL:** Yes.

### **Answer:**

Considerations affecting the timeline for the development and release of the Defence Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2021 include: the release of the 5<sup>th</sup> National Mental Health Plan; the release of the Transition and Wellbeing Research Programme initial report; the Senate Inquiry into Suicide by Veterans and ex-Service Personnel; and the National Mental Health Commission Review into Defence and Department of Veterans' Affairs Suicide Prevention Services.

The intent will be to have the 2017-2021 Defence Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy finalised for release between August and October 2017. Until the new Strategy is released, the extant 2011 Australian Defence Force Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy will remain in place and Defence will continue to report against the 2012-15 ADF Mental Health and Wellbeing Action Plan.