

Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Inquiry into Suicide by veterans and ex-service personnel – 06 February 2017

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: Illegal altering of medical records

Question reference number: 3

Senator: Lambie

Type of question: Spoken, asked on Monday, 6 February 2017, Hansard pages 25 and 28

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 24 February 2017

Question:

Senator LAMBIE: In another Senate inquiry into the RTI, a former ADF medical officer, Dr Scally—now a GP in Parkes—has made allegations that medical records are illegally altered and doctors are given orders by commanding officers about what to write on patient files. He writes about 'medical officers being forced to change clinical decisions—not overruled but enforced'. It was commonplace in the military ... Are ADF medical officers allowed to come to a senator and make similar allegations if they witness similar behaviour—that is, are they allowed to blow the whistle to members of parliament?

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Senator LAMBIE: On notice: how many reports have been made to you guys where medical reports have been altered? That is all I want to know.

Rear Adm. Wolski: We will take that on notice.

Answer:

There have been no reports of medical reports being altered as a result of Command pressure.