

**Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – COMMITTEES**

**Australia's overseas development programs in Afghanistan – 22 March 2013**

**Q6: Australian Afghan Development Organisation submission**

**The Committee submitted a written question:**

In its submission, the Australian Afghan Development Organisation recommended 'Ensure the exit of combat troops is matched by increased support to gender sensitivity training and mentoring of Afghan National Army'

(1) In its training and mentoring of ANA, to what extent has the ADF incorporated gender sensitive criteria and benchmarks for women's participation, consistent with Australia's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security?

(2) How are they monitored?

(3) Has the training involved the training of women? Could you provide details?

**Response:**

(1) and (2): Noting that Australia's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security was not released until March 2012, the measures laid out in the Plan were not incorporated into ADF's mentoring program in Afghanistan for the ANA 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade which was already nearing completion. Defence understands that it would be difficult to prioritise and implement such training in the ANA mentoring environment.

(3) There are very few women in the ANA – less than 400 out of a uniformed strength exceeding 175,000 personnel. Defence has no records of ADF units having undertaken mentoring roles involving female ANA personnel.