

## Defence Portfolio

# INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No 1)

Senator David Fawcett asked the Department of Defence the following question, upon notice, on 9 December 2022:

The evidence was that sometimes companies felt as though their dis accreditation was being compromised by the requirements placed on them by contract managers. So could I ask you to go back through your regional offices and by all means engage with industry to try to get some clarity around what is actually occurring because I hear and I welcome the fact that if a project thinks they need more, if there is a process that requires them to work with you to say yes the additional requirements we are placing are within the framework and are appropriate, that's great but if not, what it says is, we are seeing people that are essentially freelancing which is confusing and adding cost and complexity and is not compliance for industry members which then goes to the issue of both training and also the ongoing oversight of professional practice and knowledge of contract mangers in this area. So if you can come back to the committee with more evidence around that, than that would be very useful.

Senator David Fawcett – The Department of Defence provides the following answer to the Senator's question:

Defence has not identified any instance where a company's Defence Industry Security Program (DISP) membership accreditation has been compromised by a requirement placed on them by a Defence contract manager. DISP will continue to consult with members to better understand this concern.