



**Australian  
Human Rights  
Commission**

**Sex Discrimination Commissioner  
Chair, Review into the Treatment of  
Women in the Australian Defence Force**

**Elizabeth Broderick**

Senator the Hon Ursula Stephens  
Chair  
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and  
Trade References Committee  
PO Box 1600  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Stephens

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade's Inquiry into mechanisms to support victims of abuse in Defence.

Whilst I am unable to comment on the specific terms of reference that relate to the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce, nor the DLA Piper Review and Government responses to that Review, I can provide information from the Review that I led into the Treatment of Women at the Australian Defence Force Academy and in the Australian Defence Force, and in subsequent audits of the implementation of the recommendations arising from the reports of that Review.

The Reports of the Review provided a number of recommendations all of which were accepted by Defence – some in principle but the majority in full. The Audit Reports track the progress of the implementation of those recommendations and the overall progress of Defence in moving towards a more gender inclusive organisation. Issues related to sexual abuse and misconduct are identified in the Review Reports and the subsequent Audit Reports.

All of these documents can be accessed at <http://defencereview.humanrights.gov.au/>

Should you require further information please contact, the Defence Review Director, Alexandra Shehadie at [alex.shehadie@humanrights.gov.au](mailto:alex.shehadie@humanrights.gov.au) or (02) 0284 9686.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to the Senate Committee Inquiry.

Yours sincerely

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**Sex Discrimination Commissioner**

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