



Submission No 35

**Inquiry into the Care of ADF Personnel Wounded and Injured  
on Operations**

**Organisation:** Soldier On



# SOLDIER ON

23 February 2013

The Secretary  
Defence Sub-Committee  
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra  
ACT 2600

*Dear Mr Brown,*

Re: Your letter of 11 February 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the 11 January Submission by Centori Pty Ltd. In my view the comments regarding Soldier On and me personally are inaccurate and unwarranted. I am disappointed that instead of highlighting the commendable work being done by Centori Mr Freeman chose to indulge in an attack on Soldier On and me personally. His submission does little to advance the important work of supporting our wounded soldiers.

With regard to the points made in the submission, it is correct that I did not mention Centori in my submission to the Committee on 27 November 2012. I had limited time and I was there representing Soldier On. At the time of my statement to your committee I anticipated that Soldier On might begin a relationship with Centori Pty Ltd. Negotiations to partner were well advanced and legal documents had been drawn up. In speaking about Soldier On initiatives I was anticipating a relationship in which Soldier On would engage Centori Pty Ltd as a partner and service provider. The partnership did not eventuate as Centori Pty Ltd abruptly withdrew from negotiations. Soldier On has since partnered with Outward Bound Australia an Australia wide, not for profit, community based charity.

I also disagree with other matters mentioned in the Centori submission. At the time of my testimony Soldier On had funded soldiers on the Kokoda Track and had been generously invited (in August 2012) to the Heart Foundation and White Cloud function at the War Memorial on 1 December 2012. At the War Memorial event over 300 Soldier On leaflets were distributed to those attending and we were mentioned very generously by the guest speakers on the evening.

Rather than indulge in personal attacks I would prefer that we all focus on how best to look after our wounded soldiers. Please feel free to post this letter to your website.

*Yours sincerely,*

Peter F Leahy  
Chairman  
Soldier On

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