



Stephen Smith MP
Minister for Defence

9 JUL 2013

The Hon John Murphy MP
Chair of the Standing Committee on Petitions
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear ~~Mr~~ Murphy

Thank you for your letter of 16 May 2013 referring a petition for the reinstatement of the full Defence Force Cadet Allowance and programs.

The petition refers to "Budget Cuts to Army Cadet Programs and Air Force Cadet Units Facing Possible Closure". There are no planned closures of Cadet units, Air Force or otherwise.

For Financial Year 2012-13, a cap of 40 days (in place of the standard 48) has been placed on Cadet Forces Allowance for Army's Officers of Cadets and Instructors of Cadets Army Cadets. This affects quite a small proportion of Officers of Cadets and Instructors of Cadets who claim more than 40 days. There have been no cuts to the Cadet Force Allowance for Navy and Air Force, whose Officers of Cadets and Instructors of Cadets may claim up to 48 days per year.

The major high value activities conducted by the Australian Defence Force Cadets, such as annual camps, courses and weekly parades, have continued. There has been some reduction in support to lower priority, higher cost activities that involve only a relatively small number of cadets, such as international exchanges.

The Australian Government and Defence remain committed to the Australian Defence Force Cadets as a world class youth development program to the benefit of Defence, our youth and our nation.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Stephen ~~Smith~~