



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Defence Sub-Committee

Chair: The Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP
SubComm Chair: Senator Mark Furner

MEDIA ALERT
Issued: 27 June 2013

Committee recommends periodic independent review of the Defence organisation

The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade has today released its *Review of the Defence Annual Report 2011-2012*. As part of its review the Committee considered the adequacy of Defence's reporting. The Committee recommends that Defence's annual reporting needs to be enhanced by:

- developing a more precise method for reporting performance on capabilities acquisition and sustainment;
- including some detail on emerging areas of concern and potential future issues;
- enhancing its reporting on the Defence budget and its implications for capabilities acquisition and sustainment;
- undergoing a periodic review conducted by independent experts, similar to the United States' Quadrennial Defense Review; and
- including information on operational readiness.

The report covers a range of other subjects including the drawdown in Afghanistan, force protection, Defence cultural reviews, the Defence budget and the Strategic Reform Program.

The Committee makes three other recommendations:

- that the scope of abuse claims to be assessed by the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce be clarified;
- that Defence enhance the detail of its reporting on the Strategic Reform Program; and
- that the Australian Defence Force Parliamentary Program be expanded to include policy areas and the Defence Materiel Organisation.

The report is available on the Committee's inquiry website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/jfadt>

For media inquiries, contact the Sub-Committee Chairman, Senator Mark Furner on 02 6277 3423 or 07 3881 3710.

For all other inquiries, contact the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade secretariat by phone on (02) 6277 2313, or via email at jscfadt@aph.gov.au.