

**SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE
REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

**INQUIRY INTO RECRUITMENT & RETENTION
OF DEFENCE PERSONNEL**

SUBMISSION

Submission No: 17

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Recruitment Strategies Effectiveness

Reasons against Australians enlisting :

- (A) Fear of Chemical & Biological Warfare
- (B) Disruption of Career
- (C) Repulsion of possibility of having to combat one's own ethnic group.

These are real reasons against the voluntary enlistment of most people.

NATIONAL SERVICE would be more practical :--

- (1) Compulsory 3 yr. full-time plus 10 yr reserve.
or alternatively
- (2) 3 yr. Cadets plus 1 yr. full-time plus 10 yr. reserve.

Those reluctant for reasons (A), (B) & (C) above would probably choose (2) 3 yr. Cadets etc. where they learn discipline and are taught the advantages of NATIONAL SERVICE so hopefully they may even want to serve the 3 years full-time after all.

Compulsory Service would supply a better cross-section of the population instead of a disproportionate percentage of those who may not be successful in civvy-street.

My personal experience in England, Wales, Nigeria and Australia :--

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|-----|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| (A) | 3 yr cadets | King's Royal Rifle Corps | (age 13 -16) |
| (B) | 2½ apprenticeship | Civil Engineering | (17- 19) |
| (C) | 2½ National Service | Royal Engineers | (19- 21) |
| (D) | 2 Reserve | Royal Engineers | (25- 27) |
| (E) | 43 work-force | Civil Engineering | (22- 65) |

I recommend Compulsory National Service for consideration.

yours faithfully,

D. Prall

Derrick Prall Lt. RE. (retd.)