

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE**

REFERENCES COMMITTEE

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

SUBMISSION

Submission No: 18

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No. of Pages: 3

Attachments 2

KEVIN J. DAVIES
40 TI TREE COURT

MPORA 3987/12

29.4.01

The Secretary,
Senate Foreign Affairs,
Defence and Trade References Committee.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit my thoughts and ideas on A.D.F. Personnel recruitment and retention strategies.

May I firstly state my interests in this subject is due to the fact that there were Nineteen members of my direct families who served in 1914-1918, 1939-1945, Korea & Malaya.

They were all volunteers and very young i.e. 17 to 20 years of age, during these actions one was killed, two were gassed and severely wounded, one was awarded the M.M.

I am now in my 70^s and served in the King's & Queen's Australian Naval Forces from 1947-1976, throughout the World including Korea and the F.E.S.R. and am the last survivor of the family service members.

People often say times have changed, but the world's most diverse and multicultural populations will always be in turmoil and some of these countries are very close to our shores.

To maintain our security in these regions we will always need a modern, well equipped force of fit and well trained men and women to call upon in an emergency; remembering if we have not got our security and freedom, all else is worthless.

(2)

To maintain the freedoms we now enjoy there is a need to raise a frontline and reserve force of no less than 106,000 men and women who could be mobilised in a very short space of time.

Some of us have experienced this situation and were only too willing and able to go forward to protect our freedom and our country.

There is now too much talk of you can't do this and can't do that when the subject of a ready military force is discussed, there are too many anti groups and parties that have been formed since the Vietnam conflict who now have too much control of our governing bodies and who bear no allegiance to our country and who would not be part of the A.D.F. under any circumstances.

The target of 100,000 would be easily reached if the young and fit men who after committing minor crimes were given the option to form this force of volunteers in lieu of laying around youth training centres, creating havoc, costing the country millions, serving no purpose in life and learning nothing.

It has been proved in the past years that service training was the most valuable part of a young man's life, it was in my case and in the millions of those who have served and passed on.

The fact that there is very little (if any) discipline in today's younger generation has lead to the ever worsening mess in today's society.

(3)

All the reckless behaviour, wasted ingenuity and talent could be converted into a happy and safe country if there was legislation introduced into Parliament to return to the previous National Service act which certainly achieved the discipline we need now to help save our great and prosperous land for which some of us helped to preserve.

As the C.I.M.C. PAC. quoted to me in his last Xmas greeting "the USA and Australia will always be there for each other" in time of need, but, we must show our allies that we too can pull our weight by having a strong and reliable defence force staffed by competent, fit and well trained men and women.

These measures I have quoted in my submission have worked well in past years, times have not changed but peoples attitudes have changed and the attitude "she'll be right Jack" will not work in the ever increasing crisis I and many many others can see this country facing in the years ahead.

Its not too late yet!!

I remain

Yours Faithfully,



Kevin T. DAVIES

EX RAN. RANER. RAFA. RTD

ENC.

EG. 2 items

THIS MASS CHAOTIC WITH NO DISCIPLINE - COULD BE TURNED INTO THIS
 IF THE CITIZENS WAKE UP TO THOSE FACTS

Detained teens in rampage

VICTORIA'S main teenage detention centre is being plagued by assaults on workers, stand-over tactics and vandalism, staff say.

Workers at the Melbourne Juvenile Justice Centre fear for their safety amid what they say is a surge in violence at the Parkville complex.

Broken bones, lost teeth and concussion are among injuries suffered by workers in a recent increase in trouble.

The workers say a collapse in discipline and a reluctance to punish infractions has led to detainees feeling they can flout every rule.

Among their claims are that teens regularly disappear when given day leave, make lewd comments to female staff and intimidate weaker counterparts.

Inmates from at least two sections of the complex have been "locked down" in the past week after violence.

"They're (detainees) leaving this place worse than when they went in. It's out of control," one experienced officer said.

The Herald Sun has also been told:

A FEMALE worker was

BY MARK BUTTLER

knocked out last week when she intervened in a brawl between inmates.

A MALE officer suffered a broken arm in a scuffle and a colleague lost three teeth in a separate attack.

A SENIOR worker suffered a black eye and cuts.

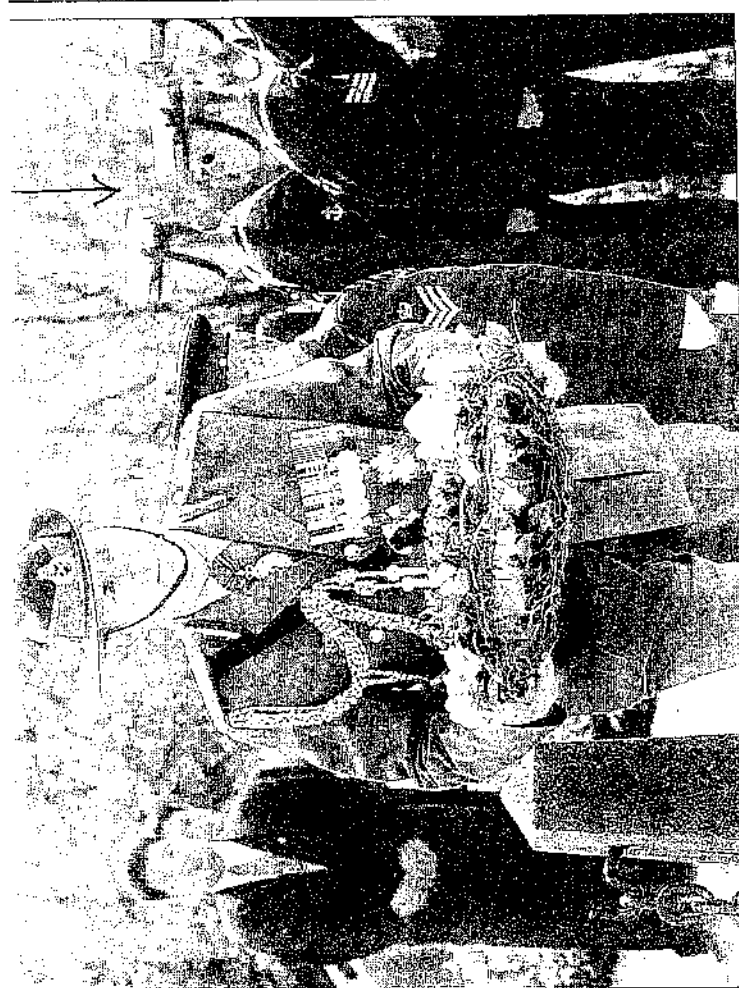
INMATES caused \$76,000 in vandalism damage to one section of the complex this year.

A VIOLENT teen on serious armed robbery charges is still at large five weeks after his second escape from the complex.

Workers said criminal offences committed by inmates were rarely reported to police and handled internally, meaning that the detainees were rarely punished.

A Department of Human Services spokesman confirmed there had been several incidents at the centre in recent weeks.

"The department is obviously keen to safeguard workers and is working to improve behaviour management," the spokesman said.



Honour: Peter Cosgrove lays a wreath during the commemoration ceremony. Picture: REUTERS

Veterans recall dead

CHIEF of the Australian Army Lieutenant-General Peter Cosgrove laid a wreath during the Commonwealth ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Korean War near Seoul at the weekend.

Lt Gen Cosgrove led the Australian contingent at the anniversary services at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery at Pusan. Veterans and war widows in Korea to mark 50 years since the Korean War visited the graves of their loved ones, Mr Scott said.

"For some of these veterans and war widows, this was the first time they had seen the graves of their loved ones," Mr Scott said. "It was a privilege to share this emotional experience with them and to honour all of the 335 gallant Australians who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country."

Mr Scott said the group and serving members of the Australian Defence Forces also represented Australia at commemorative UN and Commonwealth ceremonies.

The veterans and widows will visit the demilitarised zone between North and South Korea and participate in a ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the battle of Kapyong.

THE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WASTED SHOULD BE SPENT CORRECTING THIS PROBLEM WITH NATIONAL SERVICE WHICH IS TO BE HONoured WITH A MEDAL AND WORKS

Vandals fight sentence

BY ASHLEY GARDINER

TWO youths whose vandalism spree caused a train derailment are fighting a magistrate's decision to lock them up.

Deputy Chief Magistrate Euan Barrow yesterday sentenced Thomas Allan Wilkinson and Euan Garnet Campbell to six months in a youth training centre.

Mr Barrow also ordered the pair to pay \$1,732.50 each in restitution.

But both remain at liberty after their lawyers lodged an appeal.

Wilkinson, 17, of Croydon Hills, and Campbell, 18, of Surrey Hills, both pleaded guilty last month in Melbourne Magistrates Court to charges including reckless conduct, criminal damage and theft.

Early on June 17 last year, the pair — then both



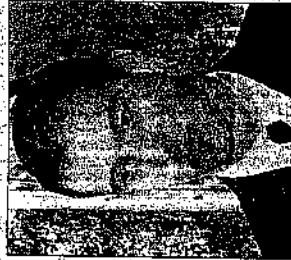
Evan Campbell

17 — began walking home along the Lilydale line after missing the last train from Camberwell.

The court heard during that journey the pair:

UNBOLTED a park bench and put it on top of another "just for fun".

STOLE seven street signs, one of which was left on the city-bound line at East Camberwell.



Thomas Wilkinson

DUMPED a wheeled bin on the outbound track.

SMASHED lights and set fire to a bin on a platform.

DUMPED a marble cover on city-bound tracks on the bridge over Myrtle Grove, where the track curves and the area is badly lit.

Shortly after 8am that day, the first train from Lilydale, carrying about 250

passengers, suddenly halted when it ploughed into the cover.

The train jumped the tracks and landed on top of the hills before shuffling back on to the line.

There were no injuries, but the vandalism caused \$20,370 damage to the train and rail company. Connex was penalised \$6568 for the two-hour delay it caused.

Wilkinson's lawyer, Rob Stary, urged Mr Barrow to impose a community sentence "despite the gravity of the offences".

Wilkinson's tearful mother told the court her son had got his life back on track since the incident.

Mr Barrow granted the boys bail and the matter is due to be heard in the County Court on May 3.

SON 24-4-01
 THOUSANDS OF THESE ACTS ARE CAUSED BY UNDISCIPLINED YOUTH
 BECAUSE OF THE NUMEROUS ANTI GROUPS THERE ARE