

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

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

**SUBMISSION**

**Submission No:** 28

**Submittor:** Mr Tom King

**Address:** 69 Ironbark Street  
ELANORA QLD 4221

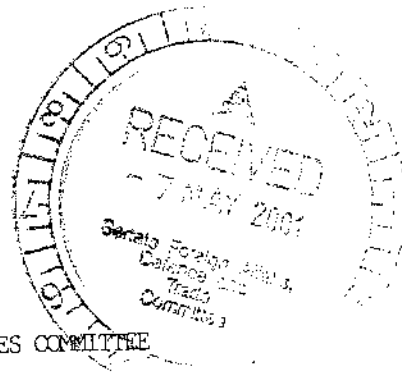
**Telephone No:**

**Fax:**

**E-Mail:**

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69 IRONBARK STREET,  
ELANORA QLD. 4221  
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THE SECRETARY,  
SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
DEFENCE AND TRADE REFERENCES COMMITTEE  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA A C T. 2600

DEAR SECRETARY AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS,

I THANK YOU AND AVAIL MYSELF OF THE INVITATION TO OFFER COMMENT IN RESPECT TO THE INQUIRY INTO RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF DEFENCE PERSONNEL. I HAVE NO RESERVATIONS, IN RESPECT TO PUBLICATION OF OPINIONS ADVANCED. I WILL FOLLOW THE SIX ELEMENTS IDENTIFIED IN YOUR TERMS OF REFERENCE.

- (A) I SUBMIT IT IS ABUNDANTLY APPARENT THAT THE CURRENT RECRUITMENT SYSTEM, IS "NOT MEETING," OR EVER LIKELY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE ADF. THE ADVERTISING, WHETHER IT BE TELEVISION OR STATIC, FAILS TO INTEREST AND EXCITE A GENERATION THAT HAS BEEN INDULGED, OR NEGLECTED BY THE FAMILY, EDUCATION SYSTEM, AND THE GOVERNMENT. DISCIPLINE, REGIMENTATION, AND THE LOVE OF HOME LAND, ARE NOT QUALITIES CULTIVATED IN WHAT WE DELUDE OURSELVES INTO BELIEVING IS "THE CLEVER COUNTRY." THE PROFESSION OF ARMS, HAS BEEN DEVALUED TO THE EXTENT IT IS SEEN AS JUST ANOTHER DEPARTMENT IN GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION, THAT HAS BEEN CAUGHT UP IN THE VERY SUSPECT, TREND TO RATIONALISE, DOWNSIZE, AND GENERALLY TREAT AS ANOTHER OF THE "EMERGENCY SERVICES," WE CAN ACTIVATE, IF OR WHEN THE NEED BECOMES URGENT. I VERY MUCH SUSPECT THAT A "YES MINISTER," MENTALITY, ORIGINATING FROM THE INORDINATELY HIGH PERCENTAGE OF CAREER PUBLIC SERVANTS, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LOSS OF UNIQUENESS, AND THE WELL INTENTIONED TENDANCY TO MANAGE AND TO "PROMOTE," THE MILITARY, IN ACCORD WITH CLEVER PUBLIC SERVICE AND CORPORATE STANDARDS.
- (B) DEFENCE REFORM PACKAGES AND WHITE PAPERS, HAVE LITTLE CURRENCY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE. EVEN AMONG THE RANKS OF THE MILITARY TRUE BELIEVERS, THE ATTITUDE IS CYNICAL! THE REASON IS MANIFESTLY APPARENT, WHEN ONE REVIEWS THE NUMBER OF INQUIRIES CONDUCTED IN GOOD FAITH, WITH SOUND RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING, AND THEN COMPARES THE ACTUAL PROGRESS MADE, BEFORE YET ANOTHER, INQUIRY IS INITIATED BY THE ORIGINAL ADMINISTRATION, OR THE INCOMING PARTY ESTABLISHMENT. ONE OTHER MITIGATING FACTOR, IS OF COURSE THE FAILURE OF ALL COMPLECTIONS OF POLITICS, TO SPEND THE DOLLARS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE FINE IDEALS, CULTIVATED IN THE INQUIRY SETTING. EVEN IF ONE STRIPS THE MILITARY EVALUATION TO THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL CRITERIA, IT STANDS TO REASON IN THE MINDS OF "PRACTICAL AUSTRALIANS," THAT IF YOU RED AN ORGANISATION OF ITS EXPERIENCED PERSONNEL, WITH CONTRIVED REDUNDANCY AND DOWNSIZING, YOU LACK CREDIBILITY AND INTELLIGENCE, WHEN YOU TRY TO CONVINCE THE PUBLIC THAT YOUR INTEREST IS NOT SHALLOW AND COSMETIC.
- (C) I BELIEVE IT IS CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, THAT PLAY A MORE SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN ATTRACTING AND RETAINING, DEFENCE PERSONNEL. OF COURSE, SALARY PACKAGES MUST COMPARE FAVOURABLY WITH THE CAREERS AND JOBS, THAT COMPETE FOR THE ATTENTION OF YOUNG AUSTRALIANS. NO DOUBT THE RESULTS OF THE BRITISH INQUIRY INTO CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, PAY AND ALLIED CONSIDERATIONS FOR BRITISH DEFENCE PERSONNEL, WILL BE AVAILABLE TO AND HELPFUL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE. HOUSING, FAMILY SATISFACTION, PORTABILITY AND CERTAINTY, FEATURED WITH PURELY MONETARY CONSIDERATIONS IN THE MOST THOROUGH AND IMPRESSIVE INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED, AND MORE TO THE POINT, FOLLOWED UP BY THE INVESTIGATORS, ON THE GROUND, POST INQUIRY. IT IS MY OPINION, THAT THE D F R D F CONDITIONS OFFERED MORE ATTRACTION TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES, THAN DOES THE M S B S ARRANGEMENTS, 20 YR. REESTABLISHMENT INCENTIVES WERE MORE IN KEEPING WITH THE NEEDS AND WANTS, OF TODAY'S FAMILY IDEALS. I SUSPECT YOU WILL HEAR MUCH ON THIS FACET, IF SERVING MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO OFFER OPINIONS.

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- (D) ANY DEFENCE SYSTEM THAT DOES NOT MOVE WITH TECHNOLOGY AND ADVANCES IN WEAPONS AND DEFENCE REFINEMENTS, WOULD BE CONSIDERED TO THE IRRELEVANT CATEGORY. HOWEVER I SUBMIT THAT IF OUR SERVICES ARE TO BECOME MORE THAN JUST AN EXCELLENT " TRAINING ENVIRONMENT, FOR INDUSTRY PLUNDERING," MORE THAN JUST SPECIALIST RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING AFFORDED, MUST OCCUPY THE MINDS OF PLANNERS. IF DEFENCE CONTINUES TO RELY SO HEAVILY UPON SEDUCING RECRUITS FROM THE MORE ELITE AREAS, WASTAGE WILL CONTINUE AT AN EXCESSIVELY HIGH RATIO, AND THE NEEDS OF THE SERVICES WILL SUFFER. IF ON THE OTHER HAND, MORE EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON RECRUITING AND THEN DEVELOPING RECRUITS FROM THE MIDDLE ORDER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIETY, THE POTENTIAL THAT IS AVAILABLE, WILL BE DEVELOPED AND WITH SATISFACTION OF ACHIEVEMENT, BE RETAINED. THE LEWIN RECRUIT SCHOOL WAS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF WHAT WAS POSSIBLE.
- (E) THIS ASPECT IS SOMEWHAT RELATED VERY DIRECTLY TO THE CATEGORY D. INDUSTRY HAS LONG IDENTIFIED THE VALUE IN PLUNDERING STAFF FROM SERVICE DISCIPLINES WHO WERE PROFESSIONALLY SELECTED, TRAINED AND DEVELOPED TO A PREMIUM STANDARD. BEFORE VERY CONSIDERABLE TALENT AND MONEY IS SPENT IN THE ADVANCED TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS, COMMON SENSE WOULD DEMAND, REASONABLE BUT BINDING CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE NEGOTIATED. WITH A MORE FLUID CORPORATE AND INDUSTRIAL MENTALITY BEING A REALITY, THE DEFENCE FORCES MUST STRIVE TO ENSURE APPLICATION AND INTEREST ARE MAINTAINED, DURING PERIODS OF VIRTUAL INACTIVITY, AS A MILITARY SERVICE. ASSOCIATION AND TRAVEL ARE TWO OF THE ELEMENTS THAT INTEREST AND IN SOME CASES, EVEN EXCITE, BRIGHT YOUNG AUSTRALIANS. I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT NOT ENOUGH USE IS MADE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT COULD BE DEVELOPED, FOR " EXCHANGE SERVICE." BRITAIN, CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES, COME READILY TO MIND. LESS APPARENT ALLIES WOULD BE EVEN MORE BENEFICIAL FROM CERTAIN PERSPECTIVES. IF THE BRITISH TERRITORIAL ARMY WAS IN THE POSITION, OF OFFERING SERVICE IN THE U K AND IRELAND, ONLY, MAN POWER WOULD BE CRONIC. IT IS THE ATTRACTION OF SERVICE AND TRAINING IN EUROPE, AFRICA, AMERICA, CANADA, ETC. THAT KEEPS AN EDGE ON THE INTEREST AND COMPETITIVE NATURE OF BRIGHT MILITARY TYPES. THE ROYAL NAVY HAS BEEN NEGLECTED, AND CONSEQUENTLY, COMPARABLE OPPORTUNITIES ARE NOT AFFORDED. THIS YEAR, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DECADES, THERE WILL NOT BE A ROYAL REVIEW OF THE DIMINISHING " FLEET," SAD ! WHEN ONE SPEAKS OF " CAREER MANAGEMENT," IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE FLAWED AND MISERABLE VALUES AFFLICTING AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY, MILITARY AND THE PUBLIC SERVICES, IS IDENTIFIED AND EXPOSED FOR THE FLAWED CONTEMPTIBLE CONCEPT IT IS. NO INTELLIGENT INDIVIDUAL IS GOING TO GIVE LOYALTY, TIME AND TALENT TO AN ORGANISATION THAT BY ITS PAST ACTIVITIES IS EXPOSED AS HAVING SCANT REGARD FOR OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS, WHEN THE REDUNDANCY IDEAL WAS SPAWNED BY TRANSIENT BOFFINS, ANSWERING TREASURY'S COMMAND. THE CAREER ELEMENT MUST BE MANAGED BY EXPERIENCED UNFIRMED OFFICERS AND AS A FUNDAMENTAL, THEY MUST BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR STEWARDSHIP.
- (F) IN THE MATTER OF " OTHER ISSUES," I ASSERT THAT ALL OF THE AFOREMENTIONED CRITERIA, CAN BE ENCOMPASSED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, BY CULTIVATION OF AN ENVIRONMENT AND ATTITUDE THAT IS OF ITS NATURE, APPRECIATIVE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES OF A MULTI FACED AND NECESSARY DEFENCE FORCE. EVEN THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN DEFENCE AND OFFENSIVE FORCE, IS NOT UNDERSTOOD BY THE MAJORITY OF YOUNG AUSTRALIANS. INSTEAD OF EXPECTING TO ATTRACT AND THEN TO RETAIN PEOPLE WITH THE TALENT AND ATTITUDE, PER MEDIUM OF SOME CLEVER ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN, JUST AS THE LEFT HAS INDOCTRINATED ITS FOLLOWERS, TOWARDS ATTITUDES THAT ARE ANTI BRITISH, ANTI TRADITION, ANTI FAMILY, AND ANTI DISCIPLINE AND MILITARY, WE NEED COUNTER BY HONEST EDUCATION, THE NEGATIVE INFLUENCES WHO HAVE DONE THEIR DIBIOUS TASK SO EFFECTIVELY. IF SOME OF THE DOLLARS CURRENTLY SPENT ON DUBIOUSLY EFFECTIVE ADVERTISING, WAS DIRECTED TOWARDS SCHEMES SUCH AS THE, "WORLD CHALLENGE EXPEDITIONS," WHICH WAS FORMED BY A FORMER BRITISH ARMY OFFICER, AND STAFFED BY MANY EX MILITARY PERSONNEL, WAS IDENTIFIED WITH THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY, POSITIVE ATTITUDES WOULD RESULT, WITH THE MILITARY DISCREETELY EDUCATING THE MASSES OF YOUNG AUSTRALIANS, IN WHOM AN INTEREST WOULD BE TAPPED. JUST CONTEMPLATE, THE FOLLOWING FACTS: IN THE 14 YEARS, SINCE IT WAS FORMED, 10,000 YOUNG PEOPLE FROM 500 SCHOOLS, HAVE VISITED 40 COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL AND IN SOUTH AMERICA, AFRICA, AND SOUTH EAST ASIA. THE AUSTRALIAN CONTINENT ITSELF, OFFERS VARIETY AND OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO SURPASS, THE WONDERFUL CONCEPT DEVELOPED BY THE EX ROYAL LANCERS OFFICER AND SUBSEQUENT MILITARY COLLEAGUES.

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IT IS A SAD FACT OF AUSTRALIAN LIFE, THAT OUR EX SERVICE GROUPS, HAVE WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, BEEN CONVERTED BY DEGREES TO ENTERTAINMENT SPONSORS AND ENTREPRENEURS, WHO HAVE THE EXTRA FUNCTION OF REPRESENTATING THE WELFARE AND OTHER LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THEIR MEMBERSHIP. FEW RESOURCES ARE DIRECTED TOWARDS STIMULATING YOUNG AUSTRALIANS INTERESTS OR APPRECIATION OF OUR FINE MILITARY HERITAGE. CONSEQUENTLY, THE TRADITIONS AND POSITIVES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROFESSION OF ARMS, IS LEFT IN THE HANDS OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM AND THE MEDIA. THE RATHER LEFT INCLINED EDUCATIONALISTS, IN TODAYS POLITICALLY CORRECT AUSTRALIA, PREFER TO AVOID REFERENCES TO OUR SO CALLED COLONIAL AND MILITARY PAST, AND TO CONCENTRATE UPON THE MORE TRENDY NEW AGE CONCEPTS. THE SOSE SYLLABUS IS A FINE EXAMPLE. THIS THEN LEAVES THE MULTI FACETED MEDIA, TO INCUCLATE ACCURATE APPRECIATION OF OUR MILITARY HISTORY AND THE POSITIVES ASSOCIATED. WITH VERY FEW EXCEPTIONS, IT IS ONLY THE TOPICAL REVISION OF PAST CONFLICTS, THAT ATTRACT THE RATINGS, THAT ARE CANVASSED. ARE WE CONSEQUENTLY, REALLY SO SURPRISED THAT OUR CURRENT GENERATION ILLUSTRATE SO LITTLE INCLINATION, TOWARDS BECOMING INVOLVED OR ASSOCIATED WITH THE MILITARY AND THE DEFENCE OF THEIR HOME LAND. IF ONE HAS REGARD TO OUR NATIONAL FALLING BIRTH RATE, THE VIRTUAL PARTITIONING ON ETHNIC DIVIDES OF SO MANY OF OUR NEW AUSTRALIANS, OR MUST I SAY, MULTI CULTURAL GROUPS, WHO NOW DO NOT HAVE THE BENEFIT AND ENFORCED ASSOCIATIONS THAT WERE OCCASIONED, WHEN WE SPONSORED MAJOR AND ENDURING NATIONAL PROJECTS, THAT ENFORCED ASSOCIATION AS " AUSTRALIANS, USING A COMMON LANGUAGE, THE COMMON IDEAL OF DEFENDING OUR NATION BECOMES MORE OBSCURE. IT IS NATIONAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP AND INITIATIVE THAT IS DEMANDED. THE RESPONSIBILITY CAN NOT BE APPROPRIATED ELSEWHERE. A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL REEVALUATION WOULD NOT SHIRK THE VERY NECESSARY DECISIONS, AND IDENTIFY AS A PRIORITY FOR THE FORTHCOMING ELECTION, THE RE-INTRODUCTION OF A SYSTEM OF " NATIONAL TRAINING," THAT WOULD BE DISTINCT FROM THE VERY SUCCESSFUL, BUT INTRUSIVE NATIONAL PROGRAMS PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED. IN ADDITION TO CATERING FOR THE THREE MILITARY DISCIPLINES, THERBY ASSURING A FLOW ON TO THE REGULAR PERMANENT FORCES, WITH ADEQUATE RESERVES DEVELOPED TO AN ADVANCED STAGE, NON MILITARY ELEMENTS WOULD CATER FOR GENUINE OBJECTORS, AND THOSE WITH SOME OTHER LEGITIMATE LIMITATION. THE ALL INCLUSIVENESS OF THE SCHEME, WOULD BENEFIT WORTHWHILE CONCEPTS WHO CURRENTLY HAVE TO RELY ON DWINDLING RANKS OF VOLUNTEERS. RED CROSS, LEGACY, GREEN CORPS, S E S, RURAL FIRE, COASTAL AND RIVER PROTECTION, ENVIRONMENTAL ARMY, ARE SOME OF THE CONCEPTS THAT SPRING TO MIND. OUR SYSTEM COULD BE EVEN MORE VERSATILE AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMUNITY, THAN ARE THE SEVERAL EUROPEAN SCHEMES, THAT ARE FUNDAMENTALLY MODELED ON THE SUCCESSFUL SWISS CONCEPT. THERE IS FAR MORE SUPPORT AND ACCEPTANCE AMONG THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE, FOR SUCH A TRAINING CONCEPT, THAN IS RECOGNISED BY CYNICAL, NEGATIVE JOURNALISTS AND EDGY MEDIOCRE POLITICIANS. THE YOUTH OF TODAY, ARE AS GOOD AS ANY PREVIOUS GENERATION. IF WE GIVE THEM THE TOOLS TO WORK WITH, THEY WILL DO THE JOB. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE AT THE TOP OF THE SCHEDULE, WE HAVE SOLD OUT YOUNG AUSTRALIANS. THEIR POTENTIAL TO TRAIN AND WORK IN MEANINGFUL FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT. PLAN FOR A HOME AND A FAMILY, AND FEEL A PART OF OUR ONCE GREAT NATION. THOSE TO WHOM I ADDRESS MY ENQUIRIES, TOLERATE PART TIME WORK AND WORK FOR THE DOLE, AS ONE TOLERATES BEING ON " LIFE SUPPORT.", NOT WITH ANY ENTHUSIASM OR VIGOR. UNLESS WE WISH TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING AN UNDERCLASS OF " BEDOUIN " YOUTH, ENGAGED AS TROLLEY RECOVERY MINIONS, FAST FOOD DELIVERY EXPERTS, OR SKATE BOARD ACROBATS, WHO WE WILL THEN EXPECT TO TRAIN AND DEFEND THIS NATION, SOME SEMBLANCE OF STATESMEN AND STATESWOMAN SHIP, WILL BE EVIDENCED, BY PERSONS SUCH AS " YOURSELVES." WE CAN REDRESS THE ALARMING ETHNIC AND THE CULTURAL DIVIDES THAT ARE FOSTERING RESEMBTMENT, DRUG ADDICTION AND EXPLOITATION, CIVIL DISLOCATION, AND CRIMINAL EXPANSION. TO ILLUSTRATE THE POINT, I WILL SUBJECT TO YOUR ENDURING INTEREST AND TOLERANCE, RECOUNT ONE FACTUAL, PRACTICAL EXERCISE WITH THE YOUTH AT THE LOWER END OF THE PYRAMID. " CRIMINALS." FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS I HAD ASSOCIATION WITH LARGE GROUPS OF MAXIMUM AND MEDIUM SECURITY CLASSIFICATION PRISONERS. MANY HAD IN OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS, BEEN CLASSIFIED AS HABITUAL AND HIGH RISK. THE FIRST REQUIREMENT WAS TO INDUCT THESE INDIVIDUALS, INTO A STRICT, FAIR AND CONSISTENT DISCIPLINARY PRISON.

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STANDARDS OF PERSONAL APPEARANCE, LIVING AREA MAINTAINANCE, DRESS STANDARDS AND COMMUNAL LIVING, ALL REQUIRED VERY CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION AND TOLERANCE. THE INMATES SIMPLY LACKED, FUNDAMENTAL LIFE SKILLS. IN A WORD, THE PRISON WAS RUN ON SEMI MILITARY LINES. INITIAL STRONG RESENTMENT, GAVE WAY TO COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT, WHEN THE PREVIOUSLY HIGH INCIDENCE OF ESCAPE WAS CURTAILED. COMMUNITY GROUPS OFFERED PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE AND TUITION FOR THE INMATES. SPORT WAS EXPANDED TO INCLUDE FULL CONTACT RUGBY LEAGUE. BANDITS AND DRUG AFFLICTED INDIVIDUALS,, FOUND AN INTEREST IN THEIR PHYSICAL APPEARANCE, TEAM PARTICIPATION AND ADVANCEMENT FROM THE PITS. AS THE TEAMS OF OFFICERS AND PRISONERS CONFIRMED THEIR CAPACITY, PROJECTS WERE UNDERTAKEN IN THE PRISON AND WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, THAT HAD NO PRECEDENT THEN OR NOW. WITH NOMINAL SUPERVISION, THESE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD BEEN WRITTEN OFF, UNDERTOOK, PROJECTS WITHIN THE ADJACEN COMMUNITY, BUILDING AND RESTORING BUILDINGS AND FACILITLES FOR THE CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, AMBULANCE, AGED CARE, SPORTING AND SUNDRY OTHER GROUPS. THEY FORMED AND EXCELLED AS RURAL FIRE BRIGADE UNIT MEMBERS, RED CROSS BRANCH OPERATIVES, MEALS ON WHEELS COOKS, S E S UNIT MEMBERS AND THE LIST GOES ON. JUST AS WE CONFRONT WITH NATIONAL TRAINING, THE CRIME AFFLICTED COMMUNITY, MEDIA AND POLITICIANS, WERE, INITIALLY CIRCUMSPECT. BUT WITH INFORMATION FLOWING AND POSITIVES FROM ALL CONTRIBUTORS, IT WAS ACHIEVED AND BENEFITED THE INMATES, SEVERAL OF WHOM PROGRESSED TO EXCELLENT POSITIONS, OTHERS, INTO THEIR FIRST FULL TIME WORK AND A NUMBER WHO SUBSEQUENTLY PLAYED A R L COMPETITION IN QUEENSLAND AND NEW SOUTH WALES. NOW THE MOST SIGNIFICANT RELEVANT REVELATION FOR ME WAS AS FOLLOWS. BEFORE EACH NEW CONCEPT WAS TRIALED, I WOULD DISCUSS IT WITH THE SUPERVISING OFFICERS AND PRINCIPLE INMATES. I ASKED WHAT CHALLENGE WOULD THE GROUPS LIKE TO CONFRONT IN THE FUTURE? AFTER SOME DAYS OF CONSIDERATION, I WAS TOLD: WE WOULD LIKE TO TRAIN AND BE EMPLOYED AS LIFE SAVERS AT BRIBIE ISLAND. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO FORM A CITIZEN MILITARY FORCE UNIT, MINUS FIREARMS, WITHIN THE PRISON. WHEN PRESSED FURTHER, A NUMBER IDENTIFIED THEIR EARLY AND RELATIVELY MINOR CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS. THEY CONTENDED THAT HAD THEY HAD THE DISCIPLINE AND THE TRAINING, IN AN ARMY UNIT, THAT THEY SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED AT WOODFORD PRISON, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE PROGRESSED TO THE MAJOR CRIMINAL FRATERNITY. I BELIEVED MANY OF THEM. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS, WHO WERE AMONG THE INMATES TO WHICH I HAVE REFERRED, COULD ALSO BENEFIT BY VIRTUE OF INDUCTION INTO LOCAL TRAINING GROUPS. UNLESS WE EXPAND THE NURSERY FOR THE ARMED FORCES, BEGINNING WITH THE CADET SCHEMES, THAT ARE STARVED OF ADEQUATE FUNDING AND BITE THE BULLET WITH NATIONAL TRAINING, WE WILL CONTINUE TO FUND " NEGATIVES," AND MICKEY MOUSE SCHEMES, THAT CATER FOR THE POLITICAL AND COMMUNITY, DR. FEEL GOODS, BUT THAT DO NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE TO REDRESS WHAT IS A FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM OF CAUSE AND EFFECT. WITH THE NATIONAL TRAINING CONCEPT, WOULD FLOW BENEFITS TO LOCAL MANUFACTURING AND SERVICE INDUSTRY. ALL UNIFORM, ACCOMMODATION, VEHICLES , MUNITIONS, TRAINING AIDS FOR MILITARY AND NON MILITARY CONCEPTS, BEING " AUSTRALIAN MADE," THE ORDNANCE ORDERS WOULD STIMULATE ALL MANNER OF LOCAL INDUSTRY. GRADUATES WOULD HOPEFULLY BE AFFORDED PRIORITY OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING, IN OUR REVITALISED AUSTRALIA. THE FUNDS THAT ARE CURRENTLY DIRECTED TO SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS FOR RECRUITS, WORK FOR THE DOLE SCHEMES, DRUG INDUSTRY ACCESSORIES AND QUESTIONABLE TREATMENTS, WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS FUNDING THE CONCEPTS. EVEN CORPORATE AUSTRALIA, MIGHT SPONSOR UNITS OR CONCEPTS. THE POTENTIAL EXISTS, DO WE HAVE THE WILL AND THE WIT, IS THE QUESTION ?

REGARDS AND BEST WISHES TOWARDS A POSITIVE OUTCOME, TOM KING

Tom King  
1/4/01