



**INSPECTOR GENERAL –
AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE**

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Dr Kathleen Dermody

Secretary
Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
PO BOX 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Dermody,

**INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISIONS OF THE DEFENCE LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL 2006**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Defence Legislation Amendment Bill 2006.

In my view the Bill substantially meets the aim of the Government's intention to establish an Australian Military Court, in response to the Committee's Inquiry Report, thus remedying many of the criticisms of the present system of Courts martial.

While there will be some further work to be done regarding policy, regulations and rules to implement these and other proposed changes, the Bill provides a sound framework for this work to proceed.

I note that further reforms, to which you refer, including the simplification of summary procedures and the introduction of a right of appeal and a right to elect trial from summary proceedings to the Australian Military Court, will be dealt with in subsequent amendments to the Defence Force Discipline Act.

Yours sincerely,

Geoff Earley, AM
Inspector General ADF

19 Sep 06