

Terms of reference

Defence Legislation Amendment Bill 2007 – Military Justice

The Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade is conducting an inquiry into the provisions of the *Defence Legislation Amendment Bill 2007*.

The *Defence Legislation Amendment Bill 2007* will amend the *Defence Act 1903* and *Defence Force Discipline Act 1982* to simplify and redesign summary discipline procedures, with simplified rules of evidence, a right of appeal from a summary authority to the new Australian Military Court (AMC) and a right to elect trial by the new AMC instead of a summary authority.

The purpose of this Bill is to give effect to key elements of the Government response to certain recommendations of the 2005 Senate report, *The Effectiveness of Australia's Military Justice System*, by the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee. The changes are intended to ensure the right balance between the maintenance of discipline, which is critical to operational effectiveness, and the protection of the rights of Australian Defence Force members.

Information about the inquiry can be found on the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/FADT_CTTE/index.htm.

Written submissions should be lodged by **27 August 2007** (earlier would be appreciated) and addressed to:

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

The Committee prefers submissions to be in electronic form on disc or e-mailed (fadt.sen@aph.gov.au). Alternatively, submissions may be faxed (02 6277 5818) or posted. For enquiries or information about making submissions, phone: 02 6277 3535. Submissions become committee documents and are only made public after a decision by the Committee. Persons making submissions should not release them without the approval of the Committee. Submissions are covered by parliamentary privilege but their unauthorised release is not.

The committee prefers to make submissions public and to publish them on the committee's website. If you would like the submission or parts of the submission kept confidential could you please clearly indicate your concerns. Some submitters may be invited to give evidence at public hearings.