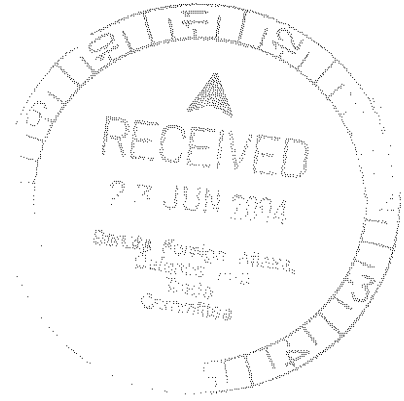




**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**



HST/OUT/2004/109

The Secretary  
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee  
Suite S1.57  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SENATE INQUIRY HEARING INTO  
THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM**

1. Attached is Defence responses to questions taken on notice from the Chairman of the Senate inquiry into the effectiveness of the Military Justice System.
2. In accordance with Departmental practice the responses have been cleared by the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence.

**R.B. Treloar**  
Air Vice-Marshal  
Head Senate Taskforce  
Military Justice Inquiry

Tel: 02 6265 4145  
R8-2-50

21 June 2004

**Enclosure:**

1. Response to Questions On Notice Senate Inquiry Hearing into the Effectiveness of the Military Justice System,

**HMAS WESTRALIA**

**QUESTION 1**

**ACTION AREA: Navy**

Senator Hutchins

What happened to the remaining sailors onboard HMAS WESTRALIA, ie how many stayed, how many left, if they left where did they go and when.

**RESPONSE**

71 sailors were posted to WESTRALIA at the time of the fire; four others were listed as being onboard but were not posted to the ship.

Nine sailors were posted from WESTRALIA within three months of the fire, ie by 31 July 1998. Three of these were posted to other Fleet Base West ships and the other six to various shore establishments. These would not have been planned postings as WESTRALIA was due to deploy at the time of the fire. The postings would have been a combination of a response to the sailors' requests to leave the ship and the need to move some personnel to higher-priority sea positions once it was clear WESTRALIA would be out of action for some time.

11 sailors were posted off between 1 August 1998 and the end of that year. Three were posted to other Fleet Base West ships and the remainder to shore establishments for similar reasons to the earlier post-outs, ie a combination of personal preference and emerging higher-priority needs.

51 personnel remained with WESTRALIA past the end of 1998 and were posted in due course in the normal sea-shore rotation cycle. The majority of these personnel departed throughout 1999-2000 with nine members posting off during 2001; the last sailor discharging to shore in January 2002.

Of the 71 WESTRALIA sailors 27 remain in the Navy and 44 have discharged. Approximately half of those discharged joined the Naval Reserve and hence Navy still has some contact with them. Some have since returned to part-time or full-time Naval Reserve service.



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**



HST/OUT/2004/126

The Secretary  
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee  
Suite S1.57  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SENATE INQUIRY HEARING INTO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM**

1. Attached is a corrected Defence response to questions taken on notice from the Chairman of the Senate inquiry into the effectiveness of the Military Justice System. Navy advises the number of sailors posted to HMAS *Westralia* should read 71 vice 70.
2. In accordance with Departmental practice the response has been cleared by the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence.

**R. B. Treloar**  
Air Vice-Marshal  
Head Senate Taskforce  
Military Justice Inquiry

Tel: 02 6265 4145  
R8-2-50

2 August 2004

**Enclosure:**

1. Corrected response to Questions On Notice Senate Inquiry Hearing into the Effectiveness of the Military Justice System

## **HMAS WESTRALIA**

### **QUESTION 1**

**ACTION AREA: Navy**

Senator Hutchins

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