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Audit report shows progress on the treatment of women

The audit report by Sex Discrimination Commissioner Elizabeth Broderick on the Review of the Treatment of Women in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) was tabled in Parliament today by the Minister for Defence, Senator David Johnston.

Senator Johnston and Chief of the Defence Force General David Hurley welcomed the report and were pleased with its findings.

“The audit report indicated that Defence is making progress against all the Review’s agreed recommendations,” Senator Johnston said.

“The outcomes of the audit report are very encouraging, and demonstrate Defence’s commitment to achieving cultural change.”

“I thank Ms Broderick and her team for their efforts in delivering a comprehensive report.”

General Hurley reinforced the need to maintain the positive momentum.

“Tangible actions, like establishing the Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Office, demonstrate our commitment to change,” General Hurley said.

“However, the results from the audit report indicate that we still have some way to go to achieve the deep cultural reform we seek.”

The audit report highlighted areas where Defence can continue to drive efforts to better support its female workforce.

Senator Johnston said while there were areas of concern he was confident these would be addressed through the continued implementation of Defence’s cultural reform strategy – *Pathway to Change*.

“It is clear that Defence is committed to achieving cultural change, and I am satisfied at the level of effort being undertaken by Defence to implement cultural reform,” he said.

The Australian Human Rights Commission will continue to support Defence as it implements cultural reform over the next four years.

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