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Department of Defence

DEFGRAM 553/2016



REFORM OF AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE CADETS

New 'One Cadet' model

1. An important project to reform elements of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Cadets program has now commenced.
2. The primary focus of this project is the development of a contemporary, consistent and comprehensive child safety regime across the three Services' Cadet organisations.
3. In June 2016 the Defence Case Study of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Abuse identified flaws and inconsistencies in Defence's administration of the ADF Cadets program. A particular concern was the lack of an overarching assurance function and a single point of accountability for child safety across the three Cadet organisations.
4. Therefore in October 2016 the Chiefs of Service Committee approved a project to reform aspects of the ADF Cadets program. Key features of the project include:
 - (a) Formation of an 'ADF Cadets Headquarters' within the Cadet, Reserve and Employer Support Division (CRESA), with Head CRESA (as Commander ADF Cadets) being accountable to VCDF for the child safety system. The new Headquarters will be formed by 01 February 2017.
 - (b) CRESA will undergo a name change to 'Reserve and Youth Division' to better describe its responsibilities for Reserve support and administration of Defence Youth Engagement/Development programs.
 - (c) The three services' Cadet 'Directors General' will have 'joint' responsibilities within the ADF Cadets Headquarters, in addition to their service-specific roles.
 - (d) New Assurance and Training Development Cells will be established within the ADF Cadets Headquarters.
5. The project will be undertaken in three phases, and is scheduled for completion by March 2018.
6. 'One Cadet' is the working title for this reform program. Like 'One Defence', the 'One Cadet' program has at its core an organisation that has clear accountabilities in the strategic centre for child safety and other common cadet policy issues.

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7. The aim of 'One Cadet' is to develop a regime which can ensure the three Services' Cadet organisations are working together effectively to provide a 'child safe' environment for all ADF Cadets.

8. This reform program has been specifically designed to maintain the important role of the Service Chiefs in the day to day administration of their respective Cadet organisations, importantly preserving the identity and branding of the three organisations.



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