

**VICTIMS OF ABUSE
IN
THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE ASSOCIATION INC.
A0059257W**

The Voice For The Voiceless



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Fact Sheet No 7 – The Skype Scandal – An Ongoing Saga

1.0 Background

- Occurred April 2011.
- Cadet Daniel McDonald enticed a female to have sex with him.
- It was then broadcast over the internet to another Cadet Dylan De Blaquiere and watched by another six cadets who were not charged.
- They were allowed to continue on in the same classes as their victim.
- The female cadet was subsequently dismissed from the Australian Defence Force Academy and ordered by Commodore Kafer not to tell anyone else about the Skype incident
- The female cadet disobeyed Commodore Kafer and this led to the DLA Piper Inquiry.
- An investigation was held and the two cadets subsequently charged.
- At no point were they placed on suspension and subsequently Cadet Dylan De Blaquiere resigned from the Australian Defence Force Academy.
- Cadet Daniel McDonald remained on full pay and was allowed to continue to complete his degree at Taxpayers expense.
- The victim had her termination cancelled but:-
 - Was not allowed to complete her degree.
 - Transferred from Base to Base.
 - Called the “Skype Slut” and spat on.

2.0 The Court Case

- It took two years before this matter went before the ACT Supreme Court for hearing.
- It is worth noting that the Director Of Military Prosecutions chose not to prosecute them.
- They were charged with sending offensive material over the internet without consent.
- They tried to have it as a closed court claiming that it involved National Security. – The judge refused.
- They were found guilty.

- Evidence was presented in Court by the Australian Federal Police, that Cadet MacDonald was involved with the ADFA Rugby Scandal where new members of the team had to perform oral sex on older members of the rugby team.
- Their Judge, Judge Nield, known as a hanging judge, did not sentence them to jail time but gave them a good behaviour bond for 12 months yet their victim has been given a life sentence.
- Yet the same presiding judge, confirmed a \$10,000 fine to a Queenbeyan Lawyer for being rude.
- What is really rude is:-
 - The inadequacy of the sentence.
 - That what was done to the victim and damage to the Service was less than a \$10,000 fine.

3.0 What Further Action Has Defence Done?

- Cadet De Blaquiere was allowed to resign previously.
- They only suspended the Cadet MacDonald on 28th June 2013.
- On 13th September 2013, he was given notice of intention to terminate.
- On 23rd October 2013 he was terminated.
- Defence only announced this on 9th November 2013.
- Defence further announced:
“Defence will not be providing further comment, or facilitating interviews in relation to this matter”
- Cadet MacDonald’s Termination is a “Retention Of Service No Longer In Interests Of Service”
 - However Cadet McDonald can still re join the service:-
 - At a later date with all the benefits of the training that he has received so far and be awarded rank accordingly
 - With a new official number and clean record.
- Others have done the same.

This is outrageous!

As for the victim, it is clear that Defence’s attitude is **“who cares”**.

As electors we say it must change!

4.0 What Message Does The Handling And Sentence Give To Abusers?

- That Defence is not serious about abuse!
- Being an abuser is okay!

5.0 More Information

For more information contact Jennifer Jacomb, Public Officer And Secretary of Victims Of Abuse In The Australian Defence Force A0059257W on 0414 724 565 or by email to jennifer@adfabuse.com.

Our Website is www.adfabuse.com

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The Australian Defence Force And Abuse:-

"It was Hubris that made Angels into Devils.

It is obstinacy that keeps them in Hell"