



## Defence Abuse Response Taskforce (D.A.R.T)

### Q: What has the Taskforce achieved since its establishment?

**A:** The Taskforce was established to assess and respond to individual cases of abuse in Defence, occurring before 11 April 2011. This means that the fundamental work of the Taskforce was to determine, in close consultation with complainants, the most appropriate outcome in individual cases.

For over three years, the Taskforce worked directly with people who suffered abuse in Defence, gathering first hand accounts of their experiences and providing practical outcomes to help deal with the impact that abuse has had on their lives. A list of the outcomes that were provided by the Taskforce is available on the [Outcomes](#) page of this website.

The Taskforce also released three major reports on the nature and extent of abuse in Defence: the Report on abuse in Defence, Report on abuse at the Australian Defence Force Academy and Report on abuse at HMAS Leeuwin. For further information, see the [Reports](#) page of this website.

### Q: What types of abuse did Taskforce consider?

**A:** The Taskforce dealt with complaints of abuse ranging from sexual abuse, physical abuse, sexual harassment, workplace harassment and bullying.

A number of definitions are provided below. However, these definitions are for general guidance only and should not be considered exhaustive.

- **Sexual abuse** means unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, committed against a person without their consent. It does not require physical contact between the person and the alleged abuser and can include conduct in the presence of the person.
- **Sexual harassment** is unwanted and non-consensual conduct of a sexual nature.
- **Workplace harassment** includes offensive, demeaning, humiliating, intimidating or threatening behaviour that is unwelcome, unsolicited, usually unreciprocated and often repeated.
- **Bullying** is a form of harassment and is repeated behaviour that does not show respect.

## **Q: Why hasn't Volume 2 of the DLA Piper Report been released to the public?**

**A:** We understand that some people have expressed concern that Volume 2 of the DLA Piper Report has not been released to the public. That is a matter for the Minister for Defence, not the Taskforce.

The Taskforce does note that Volume 2 of the DLA Piper Report contains detailed personal information and specific recommendations dealing with individual complaints of abuse. Given the fact that the majority of the content of Volume 2 is personal information, a redacted version would contain little information of substance, while still potentially risking the privacy of people who made complaints to DLA Piper.

The Taskforce is committed to protecting the privacy of people who have made complaints of abuse. However, we reiterate that the decision whether or not to release Volume 2—and if so, in what form—is a matter for the Minister.

While Volume 2 of the DLA Piper Report has not been released publicly, the Taskforce assessed all allegations where the complainant provided consent. The Taskforce worked with these complainants in order to provide outcomes in response to their complaints.

## **Outcomes**

The Taskforce has now concluded and is no longer offering outcomes to complainants.

The fundamental work of the Taskforce was to provide tailored outcomes in response to complaints of abuse in Defence.

The outcomes available through the Taskforce included:

- A referral to counselling under the nationwide Defence Abuse Counselling Program.
- A Reparation Payment of up to \$50 000 under the Defence Abuse Reparation Scheme.
- Referral of appropriate matters to police or military justice authorities for formal criminal investigation and assessment for prosecution.
- Referral to the Chief of the Defence Force for administrative action.

A Restorative Engagement Conference arranged under the Defence Abuse Restorative Engagement Program.

Source:

<https://www.defenceabusetaskforce.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx> (Home)

<https://www.defenceabusetaskforce.gov.au/FAQs/Pages/default.aspx#whathas> (FAQ's)