

12 August 2015

## Message from the Chair of the Taskforce, Robert Cornall AO

As you may be aware, the Taskforce is continuing to accept complaints from women who experienced sexual abuse at the Australian Defence Force Academy during the period 1991 and 1998. The Government has set a deadline of **15 September 2015** for accepting any new registrations from women whose abuse falls within this category.

I urge all women who experienced sexual abuse while at ADFA during that time to consider coming forward to the Taskforce if they have not already done so.

New ADFA complainants will be eligible for the full range of Taskforce outcomes, which could include counselling, a reparation payment of up to \$50,000, referral to police, referral to the Chief of the Defence Force and a facilitated conference between a senior Defence leader and a complainant.

To register an allegation of sexual abuse at ADFA during the period 1991 and 1998, please contact the Taskforce at [DART@ag.gov.au](mailto:DART@ag.gov.au) or using the free-call Hotline on 1800 424 991 before the deadline passes.

The cut-off date for making a complaint of abuse in any other category has passed. If you missed the cut-off date, please see the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page of this website for further information about mechanisms outside of the Taskforce that may be available to you.

By continuing to accept complaints from women who experienced sexual abuse at ADFA during the time period 1991 and 1998, the Taskforce is complying with its Terms of Reference. I want to be clear that the Taskforce does not consider other types of abuse or abuse occurring at different dates or other locations to be less serious.

I encourage any women who experienced sexual abuse at ADFA who would like to make a complaint to contact the Complainant Support Group as soon as possible. For urgent assistance, please contact one of these 24-hour support services:

- **Lifeline:** call 13 11 14
- **Beyondblue:** call 1300 224 636; or
- **Suicide Call Back Service:** call 1300 659 467.

Robert Cornall  
Chair  
Defence Abuse Response Taskforce