



VICE CHIEF OF DEFENCE FORCE

Head Cadet Reserve and Employer Support Division

CRESD/OUT/2016/520

See Distribution

ADF CADET (ADFC) ACCESS TO SEXUAL MISCONDUCT SUPPORT SERVICES

1. The Vice Chief of Defence Force (VCDF) recently wrote to all Officers and Instructors of Cadets about his experience at the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. He wrote to make them aware that he gave evidence at the Defence hearing, thank officers and instructors for their contribution to the ADF Cadets (ADFC) program and to inform people about the changes we need to make to ensure Defence and the ADFC are as 'youth safe' as they can possibly be.
2. Since that time a key focus of attention has been on improving how the three parts of the ADFC, the Australian Navy Cadets (ANC), Australian Army Cadets (AAC) and the Australian Airforce Cadets (AAFC), respond to allegations or disclosures of abuse and the management of child abuse incidents.
3. One initiative is a 12 month trial of providing SeMPRO support services currently available to Defence Personnel to the ADFC organisations as well. SeMPRO is the Defence Sexual Misconduct and Prevention and Response Office, which provides a support service to both young people and adults affected by sexual misconduct. The service is now available to all Officers and Instructors of Cadets, all adult volunteers involved with the ADFC, all cadets, and the families of cadets for issues related to their ADFC experience.
4. This means that young people in the ADFC organisations who are affected by sexual misconduct during their experience of ADF Cadets, plus adults responding to ADFC child abuse incidents will have direct access to the same expert services as Defence personnel. ADFC young people and adults can call SeMPRO 24 hours per day, seven days a week, Australia wide and receive professional help.
5. If you are a young person in the ANC, AAC or AAFC who has been affected by sexual misconduct as part of your experience of ADF Cadets, there is a qualified SeMPRO advisor available 24/7 to talk to you about what has happened, put you in touch with local support services and support you through any reporting and other formal processes.
6. If you are an ADFC adult managing a report of sexual misconduct, SeMPRO can provide advice and guidance 24/7 on your role as a first responder as well as your ongoing responsibilities as a commander or manager.
7. SeMPRO services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling 1800 SeMPRO (1800 736 776) or via email to SeMPRO: sempro@defence.gov.au.
8. Posters and fact sheets providing more information about the expanded SeMPRO service in detail are currently being produced and will be distributed to ADFC units before they commence parading in 2017.

9. Until the posters and fact sheets are distributed, additional information regarding ADFC Access to SeMPRO services can be obtained at sempro@defence.gov.au or by emailing the Defence Youth Group email address at defence.youth@defence.gov.au.



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Distribution

All Officers and Instructors of Cadets (Through DGANCR, COMD AAC or DGCADETS-AF as appropriate)

All adult volunteers (Through DGANCR, COMD AAC or DGCADETS-AF as appropriate)

All ADF Cadets (Through DGANCR, COMD AAC or DGCADETS-AF as appropriate)

For information:

CDF
VCDF
HPC