



Stuart Robert MP

Federal Member for Fadden

Shadow Minister for Defence Science, Technology and Personnel

****MEDIA RELEASE****

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SUCCESSIVE DEFENCE MINISTERS FAIL TO ACT ON FORMAL COMPLAINTS ABOUT AN ANTI-GAY FACEBOOK PAGE

Recent media reports concerning an alleged *Facebook* campaign designed to vilify homosexuals serving in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) is extremely concerning. Of equal concern is why subsequent Defence Ministers and Defence Personnel Ministers have failed to act on these serious allegations.

According to media reports, a formal complaint regarding the *Facebook* campaign was made in August last year and the former Defence Minister, Senator John Faulkner, was aware of this formal complaint.

Shadow Minister for Defence Science, Technology and Personnel, Stuart Robert, has today questioned why successive Defence Ministers and Defence Personnel Ministers have failed to act on this formal complaint, now eight months old.

'I am deeply concerned that Minister Smith and his deputy, the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, Warren Snowdon, have failed to take action with regards to this very serious formal complaint,' Mr Robert said.

'The simple question is; why hasn't Minister Smith or Minister Snowdon, who is directly responsible for all Defence Personnel matters, addressed this serious matter, which dates back some eight months.'

Mr Robert said the fact the reported investigation had not been completed and had not received the appropriate level of ministerial oversight is contemptuous given the Minister for Defence has just announced six reviews into the treatment of women within the ADF.

'The fact that the Minister for Defence has not moved to address serious allegations made eight months ago does not leave me with a lot of confidence that the current raft of reviews will receive the high level of ministerial oversight they so deserve,' Mr Robert said.

'I also remain concerned that Minister Snowdon has been unable to provide the appropriate level of Ministerial oversight, to the detriment of Defence personnel, due to his competing responsibilities, which include Veterans' Affairs, Indigenous Health and managing the Centenary of Anzac.'

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