



Stuart Robert MP

Federal Member for Fadden

Shadow Minister for Defence Science, Technology and Personnel

****MEDIA RELEASE****

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ALL CEREMONY AND NO ACTION ON SOLDIER ACCOMMODATION AT RAAF BASE EDINBURGH

Today's media release from the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Senator Feeney, is the second in as many months that highlights how good the Labor Government is at organising ceremonies and how bad it is at delivering accommodation for our soldiers.

Shadow Minister for Defence Science, Technology and Personnel, Stuart Robert, who recently toured the temporary soldier accommodation at RAAF Base Edinburgh, condemned Senator Feeney and the Gillard Labor Government for failing to build a single new house for soldiers at RAAF Edinburgh, all the while giving themselves a pat on the back for holding a ceremony.

'The Gillard Labor Government has congratulated itself for throwing yet another ceremony all the while failing to build any permanent accommodation for members of 7RAR,' Mr Robert said.

'This is despite the fact the decision to move 7RAR from Darwin to Adelaide was made over five years ago in mid 2006.'

Mr Robert also said the Minister for Defence Personnel, Warren Snowdon, failed to respond to the concerns he raised in a letter to him for over two months.

'Minister Snowdon took over two months to respond to a letter in which I highlighted the substandard accommodation available to 7RAR soldiers and the fact that personnel were being made to pay for this substandard accommodation,' Mr Robert said.

'It is now glaringly clear that the Gillard Labor Government is more interested in grabbing a headline than working to ensure Australia's military personnel are housed in suitable accommodation.'

'Our soldiers deserve better. This Labor Government talks about our soldiers being the military's greatest asset, well if that is true then they deserve to live in proper accommodation and they deserve a Minister that actually takes an interest in their situation, rather than one intent on holding phantom ceremonies.'

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