

Supplementary Terms of Reference

Independent Review of Past Defence and Veteran Suicides

6th August 2021

On 16 November 2020, the Australian Government appointed Dr Bernadette Boss CSC as the interim National Commissioner and provided her with Terms of Reference to undertake an Independent Review of Past Defence and Veteran Suicides (the Review). The Review has examined defence and veteran deaths by suicide, with its main focus being to contribute to a greater understanding of the issues, trends and risk factors that are relevant to these deaths.

On 8 December 2020, the Terms of Reference for the Review were revised to clarify and reflect the intention of the Review to include any past Australian Defence Force member or veteran death by suicide or suspected suicide.

On 8 July 2021, the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide was established by Letters Patent. The Royal Commission will draw on the work already undertaken by the interim National Commissioner with the findings of the Review providing a foundation for the work of the Royal Commission.

The Terms of Reference for the Review have been adjusted accordingly to ensure the Royal Commission can draw on the work of the interim National Commissioner in a timely way.

Timeframes and deliverables

The Australian Government requests that the interim National Commissioner finalise the Review, including community engagement, and provide a report to Government by 15 September 2021. The report will not be required to exhaustively address all aspects of the Terms of Reference (as revised on 8 December 2020). The report will be tabled by the Australian Government in Parliament, and will be referred to the Royal Commission to inform its inquiries.

To ensure the interim National Commissioner's work complements, and does not duplicate, the inquiries of the Royal Commission, the findings and any recommendations made in the report should be based on the information already collected as at the date these supplementary Terms of Reference have been issued.

The interim National Commissioner will provide assistance and support people who have engaged with her to transition to engage with the Royal Commission, should they wish to do so.