



# ADF Alcohol Behaviour Expectations Statement

Australian Defence Force Alcohol Management Strategy (ADFAMS)



## **Acknowledgement**

The ADF Alcohol Behaviour Expectations Statement (ABES) was developed by the Australian Drug Foundation in partnership with the Australian Defence Force.

It is endorsed by the Service Chiefs, Vice Chief of the Defence Force and issued on behalf of the Chief of the Defence Force.





## ALCOHOL BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS STATEMENT

Alcohol is widely used and enjoyed by many Australians, including those who serve in the Australian Defence Force (ADF). When used responsibly, it can help contribute to marking special occasions, building esprit de corps, and celebrating events and traditions.

This enjoyment is threatened when any Defence member drinks at levels likely to cause short or long term harm. Drinking in this way will be detrimental to a member's health and safety, and also impact negatively on behaviour; professional performance; work and personal relationships; unit morale; and the reputation of the ADF.

As an **organisation**, the ADF is committed to minimising alcohol-related harm in order to enhance operational capacity, reduce personal harm and minimise operational costs. We do this by providing education and information to our members about responsible alcohol use; managing the availability and supply of alcohol; providing support and treatment to those who require it; and monitoring and responding to alcohol-related incidents.

The ADF expects its **leaders**, at all levels, to contribute to shifting the negative alcohol-related cultural patterns which currently exist. This includes being a responsible role model, particularly with regard to standards of appropriate behaviour regarding alcohol. It involves ensuring your decisions about alcohol are made in the context of controlling the demand, supply and availability of alcohol and alcohol-related harms. It requires you to affirm and reinforce the expectations of this Behaviour Statement regularly with your sailors, soldiers and airmen and women, and manage unacceptable situations in a swift, consistent and appropriate manner.

When drinking – anywhere or at any time – the ADF expects **all members** to:

**Be responsible:** Drinking more than four standard drinks on any single occasion more than doubles the risk of injury and accidents in the following six hours, and this risk increases rapidly with each additional drink. It is possible to drink at a level that is less risky, while still having fun.

**Be safe:** Consuming alcohol will affect your concentration, physical co-ordination, alertness and judgement, which may leave you in situations where you feel unsafe or result in you taking risks you usually wouldn't take. If your drinking regularly puts your personal or workplace safety or the safety of others in jeopardy, you need to take steps to cut back.

**Be respectful:** Being affected by alcohol can impact your decision-making and contribute to anti-social behaviour, violence and abuse. Respectful relationships are based on trust, honesty, fairness, and equality. Don't let alcohol have an effect on your respect for others or yourself.

**BE RESPONSIBLE, BE SAFE, BE RESPECTFUL**

**D.J. HURLEY, AC, DSC**  
General  
Chief of the Defence Force

12 June 2013