

Minister for Defence attends roundtable with Australian Defence Force Gender Advisors on International Women's Day 2018

The Minister for Defence's strong commitment to Australia's Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, was evidenced through her personal involvement in 2018 International Women's Day (IWD) activities, at Enoggera Barracks in Queensland. The event was attended by the Chief of Army, Mr Trevor Evans MP, Member for Brisbane, and a number of ADF Gender Advisors with recent operational experience. IWD activities commenced with in depth discussions of strategic and operational WPS issues, including ADF Gender Advisors' experiences of implementing UNSCR1325 and related resolutions on United Nations, NATO and ADF operations and exercises.

The Senior ADF Gender Advisors from each Service provided an update of WPS progress within their individual Services, while the senior JOC Gender Advisor provided an update of JOC's efforts to mainstream gender considerations throughout all operational planning, execution and evaluation processes.

Following the round table discussions, MINDEF toured Enoggera Barracks, and viewed training exercises being under as part of Operation Atlas, which was the ADF's contribution to the Commonwealth games. MINDEF spoke to range of men and women involved in Operation Atlas and discussed some of the key operational and security considerations for that operation.

MINDEF's visit concluded with an announcement of the first *Minister for Defence Women, Peace and Security Visiting Fellow*, Wing Commander Angeline Lewis and morning tea at the Enoggera Barracks combined mess. During the morning tea, MINDEF and Mr Evans spoke to a range of personal about their experiences of working in the ADF and the significance of IWD within an ADF context.