

13 December 2002

DEFENCE FORCE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

MATTER NO. 21 OF 2002

CHAPLAINS SPECIALIST CAREER AND SALARY STRUCTURE

Statement

THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE (ADF) HAS SOUGHT THE INTRODUCTION OF A SPECIALIST STRUCTURE AND ASSOCIATED SALARIES FOR AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE CHAPLAINS.

THE TRIBUNAL CONSIDERS THAT THE INCREASES TO THE RATES SOUGHT ARE SIGNIFICANT AND AT THE HIGH END OF WHAT MIGHT BE VIEWED AS AN ACCEPTABLE RANGE. ADDITIONALLY, WE HAVE CONCERNS THAT AGREEMENT TO THE INCREASES SOUGHT MIGHT CREATE EXPECTATIONS FOR THOSE OFFICERS CURRENTLY ON THE COMMON SCALE AND FOR FUTURE SPECIALIST OFFICER STRUCTURES.

NOTWITHSTANDING, HAVING REGARD TO THE STRONG SUPPORT OF THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE SUPPORT OF THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA AND THE ARMED FORCES FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA FOR THE STRUCTURE AND RATES AS PROPOSED BY THE ADF, WE HAVE DECIDED, ON BALANCE, TO APPROVE THE NEW STRUCTURE AND RATES FOR CHAPLAINS.

THE NEW STRUCTURE AND RATES WILL APPLY ON AND FROM THE FIRST PAY PERIOD COMMENCING AFTER TODAY. THE PARTIES SHOULD PREPARE AN APPROPRIATE DETERMINATION AND PROVIDE IT TO THE TRIBUNAL SECRETARIAT WITHIN 7 DAYS.

WE WILL PUBLISH THE REASONS FOR OUR DECISION IN DUE COURSE.