

18 OCTOBER 2005

DEFENCE FORCE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

MATTER NO 14 OF 2005

RAN ELECTRONIC WARFARE TECHNICAL CATEGORY

STATEMENT

On 31 August 2005, the Tribunal heard submissions from the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and the Commonwealth, on changes to the Royal Australian Navy's Electronic Warfare Technical category. The Armed Forces Federation of Australia (AFFA) provided a written submission.

In this matter the ADF sought a revised six tiered structure for the category and a change to current pay group placements whereby members would advance directly to Pay Group 4 once certain training requirements had been met.

The principal functions of the Electronic Warfare categories are classified and because of the special nature of the work of these trades we have decided that it is not appropriate to provide detailed written reasons for our decisions.

The Commonwealth supported the ADF proposal. The AFFA supported the ADF proposal to advance members directly to Pay Group 4 once certain training requirements had been met, however, it argued that members should be advanced to Pay Group 3 while undertaking that training.

In light of the AFFA submission the ADF sought some extra time to consider the transitional arrangements to the new structure. The ADF has now written to the Tribunal proposing an arrangement whereby members who have already commenced training under the new structure would progress to Pay Group 3 prior to completing the necessary training requirements that trigger Pay Group 4.

On the basis of the evidence and submissions we have decided to introduce the revised structure as sought by the ADF, including the proposed transitional arrangements for members who had already commenced training under the new structure. The new structure and pay groups will apply on and from the first pay period commencing after 31 August 2005. A determination will be issued in due course.