



## DEFENCE ABUSE RESPONSE TASKFORCE

**TO:** Kirsty Windeyer, Executive Director, Defence Abuse Response Taskforce  
**FROM:** [REDACTED], Director, Strategic Coordination  
**DATE:** 19 May 2016  
**SUBJECT:** Julian Knight – Eligibility for a Reparation Payment

**Background**

On 5 May 2016, the Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, and the Minister for Justice, the Hon Michael Keenan MP, directed the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce that where an applicant for a reparation payment under the Defence Abuse Reparation Scheme has been convicted of a serious crime, no reparation payment should be made to them.

The Ministers further directed that, in determining whether a crime is a serious crime, it should adopt the starting proposition that a serious crime is one attracting a maximum sentence of over 10 years.

**Issue**

Mr Julian Knight has submitted a completed Application for Reparation Payment (**Attachment A**). Mr Knight has made allegations of physical abuse and workplace bullying and harassment occurring at RMC Duntroon between January and July 1987 which have been assessed as in scope and plausible (please refer to the CMS Assessment Note at **Attachment B**).

The information available to the Taskforce is that Mr Knight has been convicted of 7 counts of murder and 46 counts of attempted murder due to his involvement in the 'Hoddle Street Massacre' of August 1987. The maximum sentence for the crimes of murder and attempted murder is greater than 10 years. No facts have been identified that suggest these convictions were not for serious crimes.

**Recommendation:**

- A. That you note the factors listed above and make a preliminary determination that Mr Knight has been convicted of a serious crime and is therefore not eligible for a reparation payment.

Agreed / Not Agreed / Discuss

- B. That you sign the Letter at **Attachment C** informing Mr Knight of your preliminary decision and invite him to make any submissions he wishes to by 3 June 2016 prior to you making a final decision

Signed / Not Signed / Discuss

Kirsty Windeyer  
 Executive Director  
 Defence Abuse Response Taskforce

20/5/16.