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MEMBER FOR CANBERRA**

**THE HON DR MIKE KELLY AM MP
SHADOW ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND
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MEMBER FOR EDEN-MONARO**

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Labor welcomes the Turnbull Government's decision to clarify Defence portfolio responsibilities more than 100 days after the election.

It is no surprise considering yesterday's embarrassing Senate Estimates hearing.

Minister Payne appeared unable to detail to the Senate Estimates committee which of her ministerial responsibilities are shared by her frontbench colleagues.

Defence Secretary Dennis Richardson conceded to the committee that some Departmental briefs have to be duplicated because of the Turnbull Government's unclear and unclarified Ministerial arrangements.

The decision means the Ministers in the Defence portfolio finally know what areas of policy they are responsible for.

The update puts to an end nearly four months of chaos and confusion over which Turnbull Government Defence Minister is responsible for Turnbull Government defence policy.

This chaos and confusion within the Defence portfolio is just another example of the indecision and inaction that has plagued the Abbott-Turnbull Government for more than three years.

Considering the Government's track record of delay and dysfunction in the key portfolio of Defence, Labor is relieved it only took 100 days.

Now, if they could just confirm who is the senior Defence Minister...?

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