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REPORTS ON SEXUAL ABUSE IN ADF DEEPLY CONCERNING

Reports in today's newspapers of sexual misconduct by members of the ADF are deeply concerning.

Sexual assault or abuse in any workforce should not be tolerated.

The overwhelming majority of men and women in the ADF serve our country with the pride and respect which is expected from our Defence Force and we can be proud of the work they do and the professionalism they show.

However, today's reports show some ADF members have failed to meet the standards of behaviour their colleagues and the community rightly expect.

The former Labor Government initiated the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce (DART) in response to reports of sexual misconduct.

As a result of the DART, there were eight recommendations, all of which Labor has supported.

One importantly included the role of the Defence Force Ombudsman and expanding this to include an abuse reporting function.

Labor is always willing to work with the government to ensure the safety of our defence personnel is a priority.

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Authorised by Noah Carroll ALP Canberra