

Meet the Inspector-General

The Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force was set up to promote trust and justice in the ADF and to ensure all defence personnel have access to a fair and impartial military justice system.

Australia's military justice system can be complex and it is important we have an independent overseer to help ADF members and their families when they have a concern or a complaint.

The Inspector-General is an independent statutory official appointed by the Minister for Defence and our Office reports to the Parliament.

Inspector-General's vision and values

Everyone trusts the Inspector-General to independently examine concerns about Defence.

Our values are important. We Respect ourselves, our work and everyone we deal with. We act with Integrity. We uphold the Independence of the Inspector-General. We are Impartial in our work and in our decisions.

What is Military Justice?

Australia's military relies on a fair and open justice system that finds the right balance -- helping supervisors, managers and commanders to maintain discipline and good order in our armed forces, without compromising an individual's rights to respect, fair treatment and a fair hearing.

Australia's military justice system includes:



investigations, prosecutions and proceedings under the *Defence Force Discipline Act 1982*



administrative inquiries and fact finding



administrative sanctions



complaints



We are here for you

All Defence members and their families -- parents, partners, spouses and other loved ones -- can contact the Inspector-General if they are concerned about a military justice issue and feel they cannot report it through normal channels. If you believe you are subject to reprisals for making a complaint you should report the matter to us.

We take your privacy very seriously

Submissions to the Inspector-General can be made anonymously. But please note it may not be possible for us to effectively investigate your concern if we cannot disclose your identity or the details of your complaint. Please talk to us if you have concerns about how we may handle your information.

Our services are free

There is no charge to make a submission to the Inspector-General or for any action we may take on your submission.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Call 1800 688 042
Email ig.adf@defence.gov.au
Address Level 4, 25 Brindabella Circuit,
Canberra Airport, ACT 2609
Mail PO Box 7924, Canberra BC, ACT 2610
Intranet: <http://intranet.defence.gov.au/igadf>
Internet: igadf.gov.au



Australian Government

Defence

Inspector-General of the
Australian Defence Force

Trust and Fairness in MILITARY JUSTICE

Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force



Providing impartial, fair
and independent oversight
of military justice in the
Australian Defence Force.



How can the Inspector-General help?

The Inspector-General is here to help when other avenues for dealing with military justice issues are not working or an ADF member has a complaint about a decision affecting their service.

We review matters such as:

- abuse of authority or process
- denial of procedural fairness
- avoidance of due process and specified procedures
- cover up and failure to act on information
- victimisation, harassment, threats, intimidation, bullying and bastardisation
- unlawful punishment

What does the Inspector-General do?

The Inspector-General:

- conducts inquiries or investigates matters concerning the military justice system including the professional conduct of Military Police
- conducts performance reviews of the military justice system, including audits of Australian Defence Force units, ships and establishments
- advises on matters concerning the military justice system, including making recommendations for improvement
- promotes military justice values across the ADF
- considers every complaint submitted by members under the redress of grievance scheme
- conducts inquiries into the death of ADF members.

Who does the Inspector-General support?

Anyone can make a complaint, lodge a suggestion or ask that we look into a matter by making a submission to us.

Our services are available to current and former ADF members, their family and friends, or members of the public.

Unless there are special circumstances, the Inspector-General will not pursue matters where:

- appropriate action is being taken by another authority
- there is no valid reason why the matter could not be fairly dealt with through normal channels
- the matter occurred before the introduction of the Defence Force Discipline Act 1982.

The Inspector-General cannot overturn or alter decisions. But, if your concerns are found to be justified, we can recommend that an appropriate authority takes action to remedy the issue.

Death of an ADF member

Inspector-General reviews the circumstances of the death of all ADF members. After an initial review, the Inspector-General may decide to conduct a formal inquiry.

The Inspector-General gathers information that:

- ✓ explains the circumstances of the death
- ✓ evaluates whether Defence policies and procedures were followed and, if not, why not
- ✓ may make recommendations on policy or procedural improvements.

A report is provided to the Chief of the Defence Force for determination and implementation of any agreed recommendations.

How to make a submission

If you cannot bring your concerns to attention through normal channels (eg the ADF chain of command), you can:

1 Make a submission to Inspector-General.

- Include a concise summary of your complaint and the outcome you are seeking.

Where possible include:

- your name, rank, Service/PMKeyS number and unit
- description of the specific incident/s
- details of relevant
 - ◆ dates, times and places
 - ◆ ranks and names of people involved
 - ◆ ranks and names of witnesses
- your contact details
- your desired outcomes or resolution options
- any supporting material or documentation
- whether you have already complained to another authority and the outcome.

2 Lodge your submission at:

ig.adf@defence.gov.au

3 The Inspector-General will assess your submission and decide to:

- inquire further into the matter
- refer the matter to another authority (in consultation with you) and monitor the outcome
- take no further action.

4 If the Inspector-General does accept your submission, you will receive regular updates and be advised of the findings and any related outcomes.