

# Ombudsman confirms Defence has taken important steps to improve behaviour training

Today, the Commonwealth Ombudsman and Defence Force Ombudsman, Iain Anderson, published Volume 6 of his *Actions Speak* series of reports.

The report found that Defence had implemented 4 of the 5 recommendations the Ombudsman made in the 2020 [Inquiry into behaviour training for Defence recruits](#).

Defence has implemented new training for recruits on 'unacceptable behaviour'. 'Unacceptable behaviour' includes behaviour that is offensive, belittling, abusive or threatening, and ranges from minor infractions to serious criminal behaviour such as physical force and sexual assault. The training includes modules on relationships and consent.

The Ombudsman did not assess one of the recommendations due to it being superseded by a recommendation from the Ombudsman's 2023 [Defending Fairness report](#)

Mr Anderson said:

*"Defence has taken important steps to improve its training for a vulnerable cohort of Defence personnel – new recruits. It is crucial for culture change that Defence keeps evaluating and improving its behaviour training for new recruits."*

The Ombudsman will continue to informally monitor the changes to recruit training through complaints received and engagement with Defence.

The Ombudsman will also follow up Defence's actions on the recommendations in our 2023 inquiry, noting the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide recommended Defence assess its own implementation of them.

View the full report on our website [here](#).