
Sent: Thursday, 12 June 2008 10:02
To: White Paper
Subject: SEC: UNCLASSIFIED WWW enquiry: Submission: 6. Personnel/Recruiting & Retention/Defence Families

Name: Jordan Quick

Submission: The current ADF gap year only applies to individuals between the ages of 17-24 who have completed Yr 12 (or equivalent) in the previous 2 years.

I propose the following for the ADF gap year program:

1) Remove the restriction that states ADF Gap Year applicants can only apply within 2 years of completing Yr 12 (or equivalent)

2) Target the program at recent university graduates who may be interested in an ADF Gap Year as well as recent school leavers

3) Maintain the age bracket of 17-24 years of age

1) Removing the restriction that states ADF Gap Year applicants can only apply within 2 years of completing Yr 12 (or equivalent) would allow recent university graduates, that is at least 3 years out of high school, to be valid for the ADF Gap Year. Many recent university students are unsure of where to begin a career after completing their degree and the ADF Gap Year could offer an alternative avenue. Students completing high school are not the only people wanting a gap year. Many recent university graduates, particularly those who entered university straight from high school, want a "break" before entering full-time work indefinitely.

2) Targeting the program at recent university graduates, particularly engineering graduates, would bring highly valued skills to Defence and potentially maintain interested participants long-term and contribute to a reduction in the skills shortage. The ADF could also provide recent engineering graduates with valuable work place experience that they could use in the wider economy and further whole-of-government initiatives.

Accepting recent university graduates into the ADF Gap Year could also increase the number of Reservists who take on full-time work after the ADF Gap Year but wish to remain in the ADF part-time.

3) The 17-24 year age bracket for participation in the ADF Gap Year should remain unchanged as too large an age group may detract some younger interested applicants, particularly females, who may not wish to be apart of a group including much older members. That is, the 17-24 age bracket is necessary to maintain the demographic make-up of the program.

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

I agree to my submission being quoted in the Community Consultation Report