



Defence Families of Australia
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Campbell Park Offices
Canberra ACT 2600

1 November 2011

The Secretary, Cruise Ship Access Review

Reference

A. Independent Review of Enhanced Cruise Ship Access to Garden Island announced 16 Jun 2011

In response to the announcement of the review into access to Garden Island Naval Base by the Cruise Industry, it is important to note the significant cost to the Naval members and their families if there is a change to the basing requirements of the Sydney based units.

Over recent years, considerable effort has been undertaken by the Navy to reduce the alongside Duty Watch burden on units crews to ensure that when the ships are in port, they are able to enjoy maximum "down time" with their families. Duty requirements for security and safety mean that the ships are required to have a duty component remain onboard at all times, meaning on average each crew member will spend considerable nights remaining on the ship even in a home port. Due to the facilities and security that has been established at Fleet Base East (Garden Island), this requirement has been reduced to the minimum number possible. Any move away from this environment will undo this process, and once again place additional burden on Ships Company to provide security in home ports, further reducing their time with families.

It is extremely important that the review consider the additional requirements placed on the ships company's of the Naval Units and the potentially dramatic reduction of time they will have with their families if their units are relocated away from the secure facilities and infrastructure currently available at Garden Island. The berthing of cruise ships should not be at the expense of Defence members providing further duties to assist in the security of such vessels.

Kind regards

Julie Blackburn

National Convenor

Defence Families of Australia



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