

Questions:

I noticed that Defence spent \$15,000 on a "media awareness" course on water contamination at the end of last year.

- Was this spending authorised by the Defence Minister?
- What is the justification behind spending money on public relations which could be put towards compensation for people affected by PFAS at Williamstown?

Response:

Defence personnel participate in media training to support them in their roles that require community engagement, public speaking and media engagement.

The training conducted at the end of last year provided media skills to base support managers and estate facilities managers located within the South East geographic zone of the Estate & Infrastructure Group within Defence.

As there are four sites in the South East Zone under PFAS investigations, the topic of water contamination was relevant to the attendees, and provided them the appropriate training for their role requirements.

Training and development courses for Defence employees do not impact Defence's ability and commitment to provide support to communities affected by PFAS contamination.