



RELIGIOUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE SERVICES  
DEFENCE PEOPLE GROUP

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Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, AC  
Chief of the Defence Force  
R1-5-B CDF Suite  
Russell Drive  
RUSSELL ACT 2601

Dear Air Chief Marshal Binskin,

At a recent meeting of the RACS the matter of ADF personnel marching in uniform in the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras was discussed. At the time the decision to allow this was made, the RACS was not asked for an opinion. However, after receiving correspondence on this issue the Committee has felt the need to make a statement concerning it, which I have been asked to communicate to you.

Whilst the RACS fully accepts the right of individual ADF members to participate in the Mardi Gras it is deeply concerned about the decision to allow ADF members to march in uniform in an event which patently allows participants to mock and vilify religious faith, and which also has a political agenda.

The RACS seeks clarification on the current policy of the ADF with regard to the participation of uniformed ADF members in events which are political in nature and are also harmful or insulting to many religious members of the Defence Force.

Yours sincerely,

s47F



**RALPH GENENDE**  
Chairman RACS

8 September 2014