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Subject: INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT COURSE PARTICIPANT
CRITICALLY ILL
Comment:
Action Area: DGFR

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION - NOT TO BE FORWARDED
**ISSUE: INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT
COURSE PARTICIPANT CRITICALLY ILL**

SENSITIVITY: Indigenous development courses attract media attention generally. This incident may generate interest from a duty of care perspective.

KEY ISSUES:

- Civilian Indigenous participant of the Defence-managed, [REDACTED], NSW-based Indigenous Employment Development Course (IEDC) is in intensive care with a life-threatening tooth infection. More information on the IEDC is in the attached Background.
- [REDACTED] The [REDACTED] participant, [REDACTED], was taken by [REDACTED] to a medical centre on Mon 01 Nov AM with a toothache, with antibiotics and painkillers prescribed.
- [REDACTED] The participant's symptoms worsened on Tue and he was diagnosed by a dentist in [REDACTED] with a severe infected tooth. An IEDC civilian teacher, [REDACTED], took [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] Hospital that afternoon with breathing problems.
- [REDACTED] was then transferred to the Intensive Care Unit at [REDACTED] Hospital at 0300 on 03 Nov where he

was placed on a ventilator due to an abscess obstructing his airway.

- A Defence Community Organisation social worker in the region has assessed the situation and arrangements will be made for the parents [REDACTED] of the ill participant to be transported at Defence expense (Director General Defence Community Organisation discretion) to [REDACTED].

Contact Officer: Alexa Chamberlain **W:** 03 5258 0771 **M:** [REDACTED]
Authorised by: John Diercks **W:** 02 6127 3014 **M:** [REDACTED]

BACKGROUND: INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT COURSE

The IEDC assists Indigenous job seekers through improving their English language, literacy and numeracy skills, health and fitness levels, leadership and teamwork abilities and general life skills. The eight-week residential course is designed to assist remote Indigenous youth gain the life skills and confidence needed to seek employment in their home communities.

The IEDC is wholly funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and administered on a daily basis by a DEEWR provider.

Defence provides Indigenous mentors, visits to ADF establishments and the course is physically conducted and participants accommodated at [REDACTED] for the eight weeks. [REDACTED] is an Indigenous mentor [REDACTED] by Defence.

A pilot IEDC was conducted with NSW Police in Dubbo in 2009, with 10 graduates.

The second and current course is underway at [REDACTED] with graduation ceremonies due to be held next week. The ill participant is

one of the top students on the course and planned to attend the initial Defence Force Recruiting session this week. Instead he will be flown home once released from hospital and will be graduated from the course regardless. The DEEWR provider and Defence members supporting the IEDC will keep in contact with the participant once he has made a full recovery