29 March 2018

**Operation OKRA – Credible civilian casualty report**

*The ADF takes all allegations of civilian casualties seriously.*

As a member of the Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR), all reports of civilian casualties resulting from Australian operations are investigated as thoroughly as possible, including legal review. The Coalition and Defence analyse information provided by government agencies, non-government organisations, partner forces, and traditional and social media, review all available records of the strike, such as audio, video and text records, and may interview pilots and other personnel involved in the targeting process. In addition, Australia and the Coalition will consider new information when it becomes available in order to ensure a thorough and continuous review process.

In targeting Daesh and other enemy forces, the ADF always complies with the Law of Armed Conflict including discriminating between military targets and civilians and civilian property. All ADF personnel operate under strict rules of engagement designed to protect our forces, minimise the risk of injury to civilians and strictly comply with Australia’s obligations under domestic and international law.

To ensure ADF personnel meet the high standards expected of them, Defence continually reviews training and procedures, and adjusts when necessary, in order to further reduce the risk to civilians.

**On 3 May 2017**, one Australian aircraft conducted an airstrike in support of Iraqi Security Forces who were under direct fire from enemy fighters in West Mosul. Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel were also engaged in the approval process.

A low collateral, single precision guided munition was released, striking the target and destroying a section of a building used by Daesh as a defensive fighting position.

Based on a review of information now available, it is possible that civilian casualties may have occurred as a result of this strike.

The personnel involved, using the information available to them, acted in compliance with the law of armed conflict and Australian rules of engagement.