

From: [Defence Secretary](#)
To: [All Defence Staff](#)
Subject: A message from the Secretary of the Department of Defence [SEC=OFFICIAL]
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A message from the Secretary of the Department of Defence

18 May 2026

Colleagues

Today marks my first day as the Secretary of the Department of Defence. As I meet the leadership team and settle into the role this week, I am excited to learn in more detail about the work across the organisation to advance Australia's interests at home and abroad.

In the time ahead, my priority will be the implementation of the 2026 National Defence Strategy and Integrated Investment Program. The Government has set a clear and ambitious reform agenda for Defence, and delivering it will require focus, discipline and strong collaboration across the enterprise. We will need to be innovative as we work with whole-of-government and industry partners. The Chief of the Defence Force and I will be working closely together to ensure Defence delivers on these priorities.

I am looking forward to getting to know the organisation. I intend to spend time meeting teams, learning about your experiences and understanding the opportunities and challenges you see.

Our people are at the centre of everything we do. Supporting a capable, inclusive and professional workforce will remain a focus for me as we continue to strengthen Defence.

Thank you for the important contribution you make. I look forward to supporting your work.

Meghan Quinn PSM
Secretary
Department of Defence

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