

Hot Issue Brief Tracking System

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Subject: MEDIA ENQUIRY CONCERNING DSTO RESEARCH POSITIONS
Comment:
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MEDIA ENQUIRY CONCERNING DSTO RESEARCH POSITIONS

NATURE OF THE ENQUIRY:

Media questions were raised by the Canberra Times at 01:38 pm today (12 May 2014) over:

- " the reasons behind DSTO's spill of 199 senior research positions";
- "Defence guarantee that the nation's military science and research capabilities won't be compromised by the loss of the 38 jobs involved", and;
- "how will this move affect the team evaluating the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) project".

ACTIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY:

A response to the questions has been provided. Key points are:

- The DSTO Strategic Plan 2013-18 was launched in April 2013 and contained initiatives to build DSTO's strengths as a valued adviser, collaborative partner and innovation integrator.
 - In July 2013, DSTO re-structured its organization to align to the strategy, reducing the number of research divisions from eleven to seven.
 - DSTO has since reviewed its science and technology capabilities to introduce consistent management, a stronger focus on science excellence, and delivery of higher impact outcomes to clients.
 - The review resulted in structuring around Major Science and Technology Capabilities (MSTC) led by S&T8 branch heads and subordinate Science and Technology Capabilities (STC) led by S&T7 group heads.
 - The review led to a reduction in the number of ongoing S&T8 positions from 53 to 45 and a reduction in the number of ongoing S&T7 positions from 173 to 135, resulting in 38 unassigned staff.
 - DSTO has expert staff placed in all of its significant teams, including the JSF project, and required positions are filled.
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