



**BEN MORTON MP**

FEDERAL LIBERAL MEMBER FOR TANGNEY

6 August 2018

Ted McEvoy  
Air Force Memorial Estate  
550/2 Bull Creek Drive  
BULL CREEK WA 6149

Dear Ted

---

**“DIVERSITY” IN THE ARMED FORCES**

Your letter to the editor of last Friday came to my attention today, which was most timely.

I have just returned to Perth after having spent some time with new army recruits and their officers and that was a very interesting and rewarding experience.

It came after a visit I and other parliamentary colleagues made to our forces in Afghanistan last year, which was even more eye-opening, and reinforced the admiration I have for the men and women who volunteer to serve our country, including helping other nations, in times of war and strife.

That sense of gratitude I feel is also for the many men and women who have served our nation in the past, as you have, and who have experienced first-hand the often frightening and terrible reality of what defending our nation can involve.

I sense from your letter that you feel, as I do, that the armed forces should be seeking the best of the best, regardless of considerations of gender or any other form of “diversity”.

If merit is not the first and only criteria, not just for our armed forces, but in all walks of life, we are doing a great disservice to both the organisations involved and the people they serve.

It is my contention that our armed forces have a very important role – to defend our sovereign nation and its values – and should not be used for faddish social experimentation.

Yours sincerely

**Ben Morton MP**  
Federal Liberal Member for Tangney