

**VICTORIAN
SOCIALISTS**

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Victorian Socialists and ReformCAC

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Victorian Socialists and ReformCAC support proposals to reform Army's Conduct After Capture Level C course

Melbourne: Victorian Socialists has come out in support of changes to the Australian Army's controversial Conduct After Capture (CAC) Level C course, and policies to support ex-participants who have already completed the CAC Level C and Resistance to Interrogation (RTI) training courses.

These training activities have come under scrutiny for using inhumane training practices that have resulted in physical and psychological injury and suicide. Victorian Socialists supports the reforms demanded by the ReformCAC campaign:

1. To stop the use of all interrogation/exploitation techniques on the Conduct After Capture Level C course that could cause trauma and/or moral injury.
2. That monitoring psychologists on the Conduct After Capture Level C course be chosen by the Australian Psychological Society or The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, subject to security vetting by Australian Government Security Vetting Agency. These psychologists should also be able to withdraw participants anonymously.
3. To limit sleep deprivation on the Conduct After Capture Level C course to 48 hours, in line with the equivalent training in the United Kingdom.
4. All Mental Health Claims submitted to the Department of Veterans Affairs by any person who participated in the Conduct After Capture Level C or Resistance to Interrogation courses be *de facto* accepted.
5. The use of the 'Five Techniques' be declared illegal in Australia and nationally recognised as a form of torture.
6. An official apology be made by the federal Parliament for how it has treated soldiers during the Conduct After Capture Level C and Resistance to Interrogation courses.

Jerome Small for Victorian Socialists says, "State-sanctioned torture is an obscenity. The Australian military's own investigations have documented multiple instances of torture and the murder of civilians during Australia's occupation of Afghanistan. Subjecting Australian soldiers to torture – in the form of the 'Conduct After Capture' course – is part of instilling the level of brutality required for imperial war.

It's appalling that Australia hasn't outlawed the so-called Five Techniques – internationally recognised torture methods including stress positions, hooding, sleep deprivation, subjection to noise, and deprivation of food and water.

We support the efforts of ReformCAC to win compensation and an apology for the brutality dished out by the Australian Army during these courses, as well as to reform the content of any such courses and to outlaw the 'Five Techniques' as torture."

Damien de Pyle for the ReformCAC campaign says, "We are very pleased to be working with the Victorian Socialists to advocate these reforms to the Conduct After Capture course. The Victorian Socialists are well known for their advocacy for workers' rights and for Australia to adhere to international law, which makes them a great organisation to stand up for the human rights of soldiers who are being abused by their own government.

The Victorian Socialists are the first political party to support our reforms and we certainly hope they will not be the last. We want to thank Jerome Small and the rest of the Victorian Socialists for their courage to stand up against the Army's systematic abuse of soldiers in this course and want to call on others to do the same."

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Jerome Small
Victorian Socialists



Damien de Pyle
ReformCAC