



THE HON. DR MIKE KELLY MP Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support

Thursday, 10 April 2008

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NEW SOUTH WALES EMPLOYERS OF ADF RESERVES RECOGNISED

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, has congratulated the record number of fifty six New South Wales employers who were recognised last night for their support of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Reserves at a ceremony onboard HMAS DARWIN at Garden Island.

The event organised by the NSW Committee of the Defence Reserves Support Council, recognised employers who have supported their Reservist employees with workplace policies that allow them to render Defence service.

The Employer of the Year was presented to Lismore Base Hospital, with State Awards presented to: NSW Police Force Hunter Valley Area Command, NSW TAFE Hunter Institute, OOCL (Australia) Pty Ltd, and Diprinzio & Cosetlini Pty Ltd (Broadmeadow).

Dr Kelly, offered his congratulations to the award recipients saying, "Our Reserve forces significantly enhance Defence capability particularly their support of current operations. Without the generous assistance of employers such as those represented at the Awards last night it would not be possible for many Reservists to be released from their full time occupations.

"Working closely with industry in building mutual understanding and providing financial and other support for employers is critical. These awards clearly demonstrate the value Defence places on the importance of their relationship with industry."

In order to be eligible for an Employer Support Award, organisations need to have a supportive leave policy in place and have released their employees for an extended period of Reserve Service. Awards are presented in the categories of Government, Large Private Enterprise, Medium Private Enterprise and Small Private Enterprise.

Rear Admiral (RADM) Graeme Shirtley RFD RAN, Surgeon General for the ADF, representing Dr Kelly, presented the Employer of The Year Award to Lismore Base Hospital. In presenting the award, RADM Shirtley praised the commitment that the Northern Rivers Area Health Services, and in particular, Lismore Base Hospital had shown to the ADF Reserves.

Media note:

For more information about the Awards and the support available for ADF Reserves and their employers, go to www.defence.gov.au/reserves. Imagery is available from the contact officer.

Media contacts:

Mark Sjolander (Dr Mike Kelly):	02 6277 4840 or 0407 102 220
SQNLDR Del Gaudry (NSW Liaison Officer):	0447 995 487
Defence Media Liaison:	02 6265 3343 or 0408 498 664