

# MEDIA RELEASE



**Peter Lindsay**

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence

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## **AUSTRALIAN CAR MANUFACTURERS SUPPORT DEFENCE RESERVES**

Australia's four major car manufacturers have signed Defence Reserves friendly leave policies, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, Mr Peter Lindsay announced today.

Mr Lindsay launched the leave policies developed by Mitsubishi Motors, Ford, Holden, and Toyota, during his visit today to RAAF Base Edinburgh in Adelaide, South Australia.

"Historically a high number of Reservists have and continue to come from the automotive sector," Mr Lindsay said.

"These companies have demonstrated their commitment to the Defence of Australia by developing supportive leave policies in conjunction with the Defence Reserves Support team."

All four companies state they "value and support all employees who are members of the Defence Force Reserves" and they have committed to financially supporting their Reservists in their service to Defence by making additional payments, above and beyond that required, whilst making a commitment to honour the provisions of the (Reserve Protection) Act .

"I congratulate Holden, Ford, Toyota, and Mitsubishi Motors for leading the way to develop leave policies, which represent best practice," Mr Lindsay said.

It is hoped that all automotive suppliers will soon follow suit by developing similar leave policies."

Mr Lindsay said specialists in Defence Reserves issues worked in each state and territory and were available to help employers develop leave policies.

"A set of guidelines has been developed, in consultation with peak bodies, for all private sector employers. Federal, State, Territory and Local Governments and their instrumentalities are covered under separate policies," Mr Lindsay said.

"The business environment is complex and multi-faceted. A single solution will not suit all circumstances. Accepting this, the aim of these guidelines is to provide a model of supportive arrangements and practices that is of general application.

"The guidelines provide clear direction to employers, Reservists and the Defence Force in relation to Reservists employed in the private sector. Employers are strongly encouraged to adopt the guidelines as a best-practice model for supportive workplace arrangements and practices. "

For further information on Defence Reserves leave policies go to [www.defence.gov.au/reserves/](http://www.defence.gov.au/reserves/)

For a free subscription to Defence Direct, the Minister for Defence's monthly e-newsletter, please follow this link: <http://www.minister.defence.gov.au/defencedirect/spt/subscribe.html>

### **Media Contacts:**

|                       |                           |                |              |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Niki Lyons            | (Mr Lindsay)              | (07) 4725 2066 | 0418 762 307 |
| Deanna Nott           | (Reserve Policy Division) |                | 0438 013 548 |
| Defence Media Liaison |                           | (02) 6265 3343 | 0408 498 664 |