



DEFENCE MEDIA RELEASE

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DEFENCE HONOURS METCASH TRADING

Metcash Trading has been awarded a Defence Reserves Support Council Certificate of Appreciation for its support of the Australian Defence Force Reserves.

Senator Sandy Macdonald, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, attended the ceremony held at Parliament House, Sydney, in late May.

Metcash Trading was nominated by Private Michael Sammut, a transport driver with the 8th Brigade's 8th Combat Services Support Battalion.

Private Sammut nominated Metcash trading for its support in having granted him leave at short notice to enable him to attend a Reserve commitment.

"The NSW Committee of the Defence Reserves Support Council, through the Employer Support Awards, acknowledges employers who have adopted a supportive and positive role for their Reserve employees through leave arrangements and other special considerations to enable them to fulfill their Defence obligations," Senator Macdonald said.

To be eligible for Employer Support Awards, companies need to have a supportive leave policy and must have released their employees for an extended period of Reserve service. Awards are presented in the categories of Government and Large Business, Private Enterprise - Medium Business and Private Enterprise - Small Business.

"It is important to recognise the support that employers give to our Reservists, who in turn play an important role in assisting the Australian Defence Force in all roles, but particularly in peace-keeping and humanitarian aid operations," Senator Macdonald said.

"By providing their staff with Defence service leave, Reservists have been able to complete their training, attend courses to enhance their abilities and participate in Defence exercises. They have also had the opportunity to deploy to countries such as Malaysia, Pakistan and the Solomon Islands, assisting in peacekeeping missions and natural disaster relief."

"The Australian Government appreciates employers' efforts and one of the ways we thank them is through the Employer Support Payment Scheme, which sees eligible employers receive \$991.20 per week in order for them to employ a temporary replacement while their employee is performing Defence duties," Senator Macdonald said.

The Employer Support Payment will increase to \$1035.90 on 1 July.

Media Contacts:

Deanna Nott on 0438 013 548, or Kristina Kalnins on 0411 203 579

PHOTO CAPTION (DSC_9302)

Commodore Craig Kerr - Commander Surface Combatant Group presents a DRSC Certificate of Appreciation to David Johnston from Metcash Trading, accompanied by their employee Private Michael Sammut - 8 Combat Support Services Battalion.