



DEFENCE MEDIA RELEASE

CPA – NSW 092/06

Friday, 2 June 2006

DEFENCE HONOURS PFIZER AUSTRALIA

Pfizer Australia, a pharmaceutical company based at West Ryde, 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.

Pfizer Australia located in West Ryde was nominated by Captain Adrian Dolahenty, military public affairs officer with Headquarters 8th Brigade at Dundas.

The company was nominated for its ongoing support and for having released Captain Dolahenty to attend Officer Training at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, shortly after having commenced his employment with Pfizer Australia.

“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.

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PHOTO CAPTION (DSC_9306)

Air Commodore Glen Steed - Commander Air Lift Group presents a DRSC Certificate of Appreciation to Louise Burton from Pfizer Australia, accompanied by their employee Captain Adrian Dolahenty - Headquarters 8th Brigade.