



DEFENCE MEDIA RELEASE

CPA – NSW 093/06

Monday, 5 June 2006

DEFENCE HONOURS COMMONWEALTH BANK

The Commonwealth Bank has been awarded a Defence Reserves Support Council Certificate of Recognition for its support of the Australian Army Reserve.

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

The Commonwealth Bank was nominated by Lieutenant Colonel Graham Stewart, the Commanding Officer of 1/15 Royal New South Wales Lancers, which is based in Parramatta and has depots throughout the western suburbs.

The Commonwealth Bank employs a large number of Army Reservists who proudly serve in the 5th Brigade, which is based in Holsworthy and is commanded by Brigadier Craig Williams.

The Commonwealth Bank has actively supported Lieutenant Colonel Stewart throughout his Reserve service. Lieutenant Colonel Stewart said he really appreciated the support given to him by his employer to allow him to perform his important role in the Army Reserve.

“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 per week from 1 July.

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PHOTO CAPTION (DSC_9351)

http://drsc.deadline.net.au/asp/esa_states_nsw.asp

**Employer of the Year 2006 - Large Business >> Commonwealth Bank of Australia
The Hon Sandy Macdonald - Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, Mr
Andrew Corbett - the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, LTCOL Graham Stewart -
Commanding Officer 1/15 Royal NSW Lancers.**

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<i>Ministerial Action (to be completed by DGPA)</i>	cleared		
<i>Cleared by: (Minister's office)</i>	Rachel Kingsford-Smith	PARLSEC – MA	June 8, 2006