

MEDIA RELEASE



Senator the Hon. Sandy Macdonald

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence
Deputy Leader of The Nationals in the Senate

PARLSEC 022/2006

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AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE MEDAL WELCOMED

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon. Sandy Macdonald has welcomed the approval of the Australian Defence Medal.

Senator Macdonald said the Australian Defence Medal (ADM) has been established to recognise Australian Defence Force (ADF) Regular and Reserve personnel who have made a significant contribution to serving this nation.

“Current and former ADF personnel who have served for at least four years or who have completed their initial enlistment period since the end of World War II will be eligible for the medal,” he said.

“This is a fitting recognition of those who have served to protect and secure Australia and have also assisted in the ADF’s humanitarian efforts overseas.

“I would encourage any eligible personnel to submit their application for an ADM, which is expected to be issued by mid-2006.”

The Australian Government has extended eligibility for the medal for personnel who have completed their initial enlistment period, or four years service, whichever is the lesser.

The criteria also recognises personnel who:

- Have honourably served but, due to some defence workplace enlistment policies of the time, were unable to serve the minimum qualifying period,
- Have been medically discharged with a compensatory impairment at the time of their discharge, rendering them unable to serve the minimum qualifying period,
- Were National Servicemen, as the completion of their National Service obligations will be considered as completion of an initial enlistment period of service,
- Have died in service.

Further information and application forms for the ADM is available from the Department of Defence website at www.defence.gov.au/dpe/dpe_site/honours_awards/ .

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