

## **Pay rise for employers of Defence Reserve workers**

Employers who have workers who are part of the Defence Reserve have won a rise in the compensation they are paid while the employee is away on training.

Secretary for Defence Support, Dr Mike Kelly, said the payment would rise to \$1183.10 a week from \$1123.30. The change took place on 1 July.

'The Scheme was introduced to provide financial assistance to both employers and self-employed reservists,' said Dr Kelly.

### **Offset costs**

'The weekly payment helps offset the costs associated with the absence of Reservist employees who are performing Defence service.'

For Reservists in part-time employment, a pro-rata amount of the applicable Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings (AWOTE) is calculated based on their weekly working hours. ESP support is also available to self-employed Reservists whose business provides their main source of income.

### **Qualifying period**

In order for an employer to qualify for ESP payments, their Reservist employees must perform Defence service for five or more consecutive days after completing the qualifying period.

Employers can download claim [forms](#). Defence Reserves Support specialists are available on 1800 803 485 or by [email](#) to help resolve any queries about the claims process.

Reservists join the Navy, Army or Air Force as part-time members of the ADF.

There are around 45,000 Active and Standby Reservists, representing around 45% of the total Force. They are volunteers who bring with them civilian skills and experience and gain new skills as part of their Reserve training.