



THE HON. DR MIKE KELLY MP Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support

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Victorian bosses put to the test

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, Dr Mike Kelly, today commended the commitment a group of 33 Victorian employers have shown as they prepare to spend this weekend with the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Reserves at RAAF Base Laverton (19-21 March) when they participate in Exercise Executive Stretch (EES).

“This is a unique opportunity for employers to experience the military training and lifestyle of a Reservist in the ADF,” Dr Kelly said.

“The weekend provides as much information as possible to the employers. As well as the hands-on experience, participants be briefed on the Employer Support Payment Scheme and how the Office of Reserve Service Protection can assist them.

“The weekend is an opportunity to understand the benefits of having a Reservist on staff as well as their rights and obligations as employers,” Dr Kelly said.

EES is designed to expose the employers of Reservists to the invaluable skills gained in the military that also have benefits in their civilian workplace.

EES is being coordinated by 21 Squadron, Melbourne’s Air Force Reserve unit located at Laverton. 21 Squadron’s program will provide the employers with a unique opportunity as they experience a range of activities - including abseiling, quick decision making exercises, team building activities such as erecting a tent, water safety, night time operations as well as history and drill. They will also be taught how to fire the Australian Defence Force’s F88 Austeyr rifle.

The employers include representatives from Victoria Police, Thales, Bunnings, Gannawarra Shire Council and Suzlon Energy Australia.

For more information about Defence Force Reserves visit www.defence.gov.au/reserves or call 1800 803 485.

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