



## **THE HON. DR MIKE KELLY MP**

### **Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support**

Thursday, 10 December 2009	095/2009
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#### **SUPPORTIVE EMPLOYERS THANKED IN VICTORIA**

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, congratulated a select group of Victorian employers for receiving Employer Support Awards at an event held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground last night (Wednesday, 9 December 2009).

The 2009 Employer Support Awards, attended by more than 200 people, recognised the outstanding support for Australian Defence Force (ADF) Reserves by businesses whose workplace policies enabled Reservists on their staff to fulfil training and Defence service commitments.

“The Australian Defence Force's capability is significantly enhanced by our Reserve Forces,” Dr Kelly said.

“Reservists are currently deployed on operations overseas and are also carrying out important roles here in Australia.

“Employer support of Reservists is critical and these awards clearly demonstrate the value Defence places on the importance of their relationship with employers.”

Chair of the Defence Reserves Support Council's Victorian Committee, Leigh Purnell said a diverse group of nominations representing a wide cross section of the business community had been received.

“It is also pleasing to see the nominations coming from each of the three Services - Navy, Army and Air Force,” Mr Purnell said.

“The strength of our Reserve base in Victoria is exemplified by the diversity and commitment of the employers.

“Employers of Reservists gain an employee who is not only twice the citizen, but one who is capable of being assigned a variety of tasks; an employee who demonstrates high values and commitment to the business and for what it stands. Reservists generally bring to the business community additional skill sets that are highly sought after.”

Head Cadet, Reserve and Employer Support Division Major General Greg Melick and Mr Purnell presented the awards to the worthy recipients.

## **AWARD WINNERS:**

- Deakin University
- Goulburn Valley Health
- Alfred Hospital
- Scorpion Engineering
- BAE Systems Australia – Maritime
- Australian Red Cross
- St Vincent's, Mental Health Service, Melbourne
- Hampton Park Baptist Church
- Victoria Police
- Department of Justice - Corrections Victoria, HM Melbourne Assessment Prison
- Torus Games

For more information about the awards and the support available for ADF Reserves and their employers, visit [www.defence.gov.au/reserves](http://www.defence.gov.au/reserves) or call 1800 803 485.

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