



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

Tuesday, 24 March 2009

011/2009

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON THE RESERVES

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP today opened the 2009 International Conference on Employer Support for the Reserves (ICESR09) in Sydney.

Military and civilian representatives from around the world will gather in Sydney this week (23-25 March) to explore the future direction for Reserve forces.

Delegates at the ICESR09 will share information and experiences on methods of support by, and for, civilian employers of Defence Reservists.

Dr Kelly said that the theme of ICESR09, *Upskilling the Workforce*, highlights the participation of most Reservists in two workforces, the military and the civilian and the potential for each workplace to contribute to the overall skills development of Australian Defence Force (ADF) Reserves.

“Working closely with employers and our international colleagues and building mutual understanding is critical,” said Dr Kelly.

“The ADF places considerable importance on its relationship with employers of Reservists.

“ICESR09 will tackle various subjects including integrated training and formal exchanges and the use of technology in developing a shared workforce.”

Presenters from Australia and overseas will deliver presentations on various topics including employer support mechanisms used by the ADF and other defence forces, the defence and industry relationship and the strategic national value of the Reserve.

Australia was selected as the host in recognition of its 'best practice' in the field of Reserve and employer support.

Thirteen nations, including Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Malaysia, will be represented with many delegations being led by two-star officers.

For more information on ICESR09 go to: www.defence.gov.au/icesr09

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