



DEFENCE MEDIA RELEASE

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN EMPLOYERS AWARDED FOR SUPPORTING DEFENCE RESERVES

Child, Youth and Women's Health Services will tonight receive the inaugural Defence Reserves Support Council SA State Employer of the Year Award for the tremendous support they have offered their Reservist employees.

A further 35 South Australian employers will also be recognised for their significant support of Defence Reserve personnel during the ceremony at Ayers House.

The event, organised by South Australian Committee of the Defence Reserves Support Council, acknowledges employers who have supported their Reserve employees with leave arrangements and other special considerations needed for them to fulfil their Defence obligations.

The Hon Michael Atkinson, MP, Minister for Justice, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, representing the Premier, and Major General Neil Wilson, Head Reserve Policy and Assistant Chief of the Defence Force (Reserves), will present the awards and certificates.

To be eligible for the major awards, organisations need to have a supportive leave policy and have released their employees for an extended period of Reserve service. Awards are presented in the categories of Government, Large Business, Medium Business and Small Business. Due to the large number of excellent nominations received this year, the selection board was unable to determine one winner in the small business category, so three awards are being presented in this category.

"Employers who make their Reservist employees available for Defence service are enhancing Australia's security," said Mr Peter Summers, Chair of the Defence Reserves Support Council – South Australian Committee.

"By supporting their staff with Defence service leave, Reservists have been able to complete their training, attend courses to enhance their abilities and to participate in Defence exercises.

"Increasingly we are drawing on the skills, expertise and qualifications of Defence Reserves to support military operations and the support of employers is extremely important."

"I think employers appreciate being recognised in this way."

The following organisations will receive major awards:

Small Business category – Holbri Engineering, Wizard Adelaide Hills and Chace Agencies

Medium Business category – St Peter’s College

Large Business category – Westpac Banking Corporation

Government category – Child, Youth and Women’s Health Services

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