

# MEDIA RELEASE



**Peter Lindsay**  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence

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## **STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH INDUSTRY VITAL FOR DEFENCE FORCE SUCCESS**

Industry and the Australian Defence Force Reserve need to embark on a new level of cooperation by sharing scarce personnel resources, according to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, Peter Lindsay MP.

Speaking at a breakfast in Adelaide staged in conjunction with the major Defence and Industry Conference, Mr Lindsay told business leaders from throughout Australia that employers and the ADF can both benefit from sharing the finite supply of skilled personnel.

“The engineering and technical trades and the ADF have a lot a lot in common,” Mr Lindsay said.

“Both train their people to a high standard and contribute in their own ways to the creation and maintenance of a safe, secure and productive environment for the people of Australia.

“The strong economy and jobs market means Defence and the private sector are finding it difficult to attract and retain people and are sometimes in competition with one another.”

Rather than competing for personnel, Mr Lindsay said there are benefits for Defence and Industry to make service in the Reserve attractive to employees and for both to work cooperatively.

“As the Australian Defence Force continues to be deployed in a variety of ways and locations, we need Reservists with specific technical skills.

“Employees who volunteer for Defence service can develop their existing skills while earning extra money and gaining the satisfaction that comes from serving their country.

“In return, employers can receive significant cash payments to offset the temporary absence of their staff and will benefit from the attributes the ADF typically brings out in its members such as leadership, loyalty, teamwork and commitment to a task.

“The ADF is also talking to a range of seasonal industries about utilising their tradespeople in traditional down-times. The ADF gets the added capability and industry gets its people back when they need them,” Mr Lindsay said.

Industries currently being targeted by Defence include Health, Engineering and Technical Trades, the Law and Information Technology.

The *Reserves Working with Industry* breakfast will be followed by similar information sessions aimed at individuals from the sought-after sectors. These will be held in most capital cities in upcoming months.

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### **Media Contacts:**

Niki Lyons	(Mr Lindsay)	(07) 4725 2066	0418 762 307
Deanna Nott	(Reserve Policy Division)		0438 013 548
Defence Media Liaison		(02) 6265 3343	0408 498 664