



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

Saturday, 4 July 2009

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**INCREASE IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR  
EMPLOYERS OF RESERVISTS**

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM MP today announced that Employers of Defence Reservists who claim financial assistance through the Employer Support Payment Scheme will now receive more money.

Employer Support Payments (ESPs) rose on 1 July from \$1123.30 to \$1183.10, for every week full-time employee Reservists are away from their civilian jobs, once the qualifying period of two weeks and other eligibility criteria are satisfied.

“The Scheme was introduced to provide financial assistance to both employers and self-employed reservists,” said Dr Kelly.

“The weekly payment helps offset the costs associated with the absence of Reservist employees who are performing Defence service.”

For Reservists in part-time employment, a pro-rata amount of the applicable Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings (AWOTE) is calculated based on their weekly working hours. ESP support is also available to self-employed Reservists whose business provides their main source of income.

In order for an employer to qualify for ESP payments, their Reservist employees must perform Defence service for five or more consecutive days after completing the qualifying period.

Employers can download claim forms at [www.defence.gov.au/reserves](http://www.defence.gov.au/reserves). Defence Reserves Support specialists are available on 1800 803 485 or [esp@defence.gov.au](mailto:esp@defence.gov.au) to help resolve any queries about the claims process.

**Media contacts:**

Elyse Gatt (Dr. Mike Kelly):

02 6277 4840 or 0437 502 246

Defence Media Liaison:

02 6265 3343 or 0408 498 664