



The Hon Darren Chester MP

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel

Sunday 30 June 2019

AUSTRALIA MARKS RESERVE FORCES DAY

TOMORROW the nation marks Reserve Forces Day, recognising the essential role our Navy, Army and Air Force Reservists have played in theatres of war, conflicts and peacekeeping.

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester said Reserve Forces Day has been marked annually since 1998 and is an important day that recognises the everyday Australians who put elements of their lives and careers on hold to serve their country.

“These dedicated Reservists play pivotal roles within the Defence Force, volunteering in times of need. On this day we acknowledge and thank all who have served, and continue to serve as part of the Australian Defence Force Reserves,” Mr Chester said.

“The men and women who serve in our part-time forces are part of a tradition that dates to the early part of the 20th century. They continue to serve alongside our full-time members, including on overseas operations.

“Thanks should also be given to employers; without their flexibility and continued support it would not be possible for the Reservists to play such an active role in the Forces.

“The partners and families of our Reservists are important supporters and should not be forgotten. This support is invaluable in helping Reserve members as they move between their civilian and Defence force duties.”

The Department of Veterans’ Affairs provides support and compensation to Reservists for all service related injuries and illnesses. Reservists with one day continuous full-time service or who have been involved in hazardous service may be eligible for support through Open Arms - Veterans & Families Counselling. For further information, please visit www.openarms.gov.au

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Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling, provides support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families. Free and confidential help is available 24/7.

Phone 1800 011 046 (international: +61 1800 011 046 or +61 8 8241 4546) or visit www.OpenArms.gov.au