What is the Prince of Wales Award Scheme?

The Prince of Wales Award (POWA) Scheme provides a development opportunity for Australian Defence Force (ADF) Reservists to enhance their individual experience and knowledge in their chosen civilian occupation or profession.

The experience and knowledge gained from a successful POWA activity will provide ongoing benefits to the civilian employer, Defence and the Reservist while promoting cooperation and support between Defence and civilian employers.

What are the benefits of the Prince of Wales Awards?

For POWA recipients:

An award up to the value of $8000 for the recipient to undertake an activity — directly related to their civilian employment — that has been developed in agreement with their employer to assist their professional development and potentially benefit Defence.

The POWA activity can take many forms including, but not limited to:

- A training course in Australia or overseas,
- Attendance at a local, national or international conference, or
- An attachment or placement with an appropriate industry organisation or area of employment.

Selected POWA recipients may also undertake a military secondment, in conjunction with their POWA activity, if the secondment relates to a capability area identified by Defence.

From left: Commodore Robert Morrison, Deputy Head Cadet Reserve and Employer Support Division presenting a 2012 Prince of Wales Award to Captain Brett Fowler, 7 Field Battery/3rd Field Regiment, receiving Business POWA Detective Senior Sergeant Jeff Christmass on behalf of WA Police Serious and Organised Crime Division, Professor Murray Lampard, Chairman State Council-Defence Reserves Support Council, and Major John Blylevens, Officer Commanding 7 Field Battery.
The civilian employer of the POWA recipient will have direct input into the proposed activity before the application is developed, to ensure that it will enhance both the organisation’s and individual’s goals. There will also be opportunities to raise the profile of the Reservist’s organisation through media releases, future advertising of the POWA Scheme, and attendance at Defence functions to speak about the awards.

**How many Prince of Wales Awards are presented?**

The awards are allocated on a State and Territory basis. Up to two awards may be presented annually in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. At least one award will be made available on an annual basis in the Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania and the Northern Territory. However, the number of awards may increase in any area if the quality of the application warrants such a decision and the resources are available.

**Who is eligible to nominate?**

ADF Reservists with a minimum of 3 years effective service and who are ‘efficient’ in the financial year of application and of the following ranks:

- Navy – Leading Seaman to Lieutenant Commander, including Navy Chaplain Division 1.
- Army – Corporal to Major.
- Air Force – Corporal to Squadron Leader.


**How do you nominate?**

The nomination process is based upon a proposal (no more than 3 pages long) that has been developed in direct consultation and agreement with a reservist’s employer and supported by their Commanding Officer. The reservist must complete the nomination form on the Defence Reserves Support website or in Annex A in Part 8, Chapter 2 of the Military Personnel Manual (Prince of Wales Award). Reservists may submit an application form at any time; however, closing dates for the following financial year are usually in mid-February.

**What is the Prince of Wales Awards selection process?**

The selection process will be conducted in the following stages:

1. The selection committee will consider all applications and place them in an initial order of merit. Based upon the quality of applications, the selection committee will determine how many applicants will be interviewed.
2. The State or Territory selection committee then interviews those applicants.
3. Following the interviews, all applicants considered suitable for a POWA, will be placed in an order of merit for their State or Territory.
4. The Cadet, Reserve and Employer Support Division (CRESD) will then ratify the orders of merit.

Check out the Defence Reserves Support website or the CRESD intranet site for State/Territory closing dates.

**Is it worth the effort?**

Definitely! Not only do Reservists earn the right to participate in their nominated activity, up to the value of $8000, they also demonstrate to their civilian employer and Commanding Officer an array of skills they may not have previously observed.

What boss would not be impressed with an $8000 boost to the training and development of their organisation? They have direct input into the activity right from the beginning of the process. The Reservist demonstrates motivation, initiative, written communication skills and interpersonal skills at interview stage and project management skills if they receive a POWA.

Even if a Reservist is not an award recipient, their employer and Commanding Officer will have observed skills they may not have had the opportunity to demonstrate previously.

Reservists are also very welcome to reapply in future years for a POWA.

**Don’t wait. Apply Now!**

1800 803 485

*Awards presented can be up to the maximum value of $8000.*