



## DEFENCE RESERVES SUPPORT

Supporting Australia's Reservists and their Employers

# DEFENCE RESERVES SUPPORT COUNCIL

## The Australian Defence Force (ADF) consists of full-time and part-time (Reserve) components.

Reservists are essential to the ADF, both in terms of their proportion of total numbers in uniform, and the specialist capabilities and complementary skills they bring. It is critical to our security and national interests to have capable, trained and available Reservists in the ADF.

The key issue for Reservists centres on their availability for training and development during peace time, and their availability for domestic or overseas deployment. To achieve this, it is crucial to have the support of employers and the community.

The Defence Reserves Support Council (DRSC) is set up to promote the benefits of Reserve service to employers and the community, and create an effective link between Reservists, employers, the ADF, all levels of government and the community.

The DRSC is established by the direction of the Minister responsible for the Reserves and is supported financially and in management terms by a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Defence and the National Chair of the DRSC.

The mission of the DRSC is to establish and maintain a flexible and supportive partnership between Defence and the community, industry and employers to sustain and enhance the availability of the Reserve component of the ADF.

At its broadest level, the DRSC comprises a National Executive, State and Territory Chairs and the National Council.

DRSC members are selected in recognition of their place in the community (including business) and their ability to advocate issues relating to the interactions between Reservists, employers and the community in general.

DRSC members have no military rank equivalency.

The DRSC is supported in its activities by Defence Reserves Support (DRS), which has staff in each State and Territory. DRS provides governance and financial accountability for the running of the DRSC.

## Roles and responsibilities of the DRSC

The role of the DRSC National Executive is to provide senior level advice to government and the ADF on matters affecting Reserve availability, including employer support. The Executive also provides guidance to the DRSC National Council and to the State and Territory Councils.

The role of the National Council is to provide advice on the development of broad policies and supportive programs, and on matters affecting Reserve availability and service.

Individual Council members are to promote the benefits of Reserve service within their own organisations and to bring to the Council's attention specific issues that relate to this task. In particular, employer, government and industry group members are expected to work with their business colleagues/constituencies to encourage the adoption of Reserve supportive employer practices within the guidelines issued by DRS.

State and Territory Council roles and responsibilities are based on strategic guidance provided by the Executive and set locally by the State or Territory Chair. State and Territory Councils bear the bulk of the responsibility for advocating on behalf of Reservists as well as developing and managing employer support and award programs.

State and Territory Councils:

- Act as an advisory body to the DRSC Executive and National Council;
- Support the DRSC in its aims and responsibilities;
- Encourage and support employers of Reservists;
- Educate the community about the value and role of Reserves;
- Educate and inform the employer community on the benefits that Reservists bring to employers and the workplace;
- Enlist supporters of Reservists from within the private and public sector employment groups.

Without the essential support of the DRSC, along with employers and the community the Reserve component would not be able to deliver effective capability in support of the nation and its interests.

## How do I find out more information?

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**Call 1800 803 485**

**[defencereservessupport.gov.au](http://defencereservessupport.gov.au)**