



DEFENCE RESERVES SUPPORT

Supporting Australia's Reservists and their Employers

EMPLOYER SUPPORT PAYMENT SCHEME

Higher level Employer Support Payments for service by Reserve Health Professionals

The Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) has approved higher level Employer Support Payment Scheme (ESPS) for employers of Reserve Health Officers and self-employed Reserve Health Officers.

Who can claim?

An employer of a medical, dental, nursing or allied health officer in the Defence Force Reserves, or a Self-employed Reservist, who is within a specified health discipline and is undertaking an eligible type of Defence service.

A full listing of eligible health disciplines can be found on the Defence Reserves Support (DRS) website at www.defencereservessupport.gov.au (navigate to Employer Support Payment Scheme).

In some circumstances, ESPS payments may be approved when the medical, dental, nursing or allied health officer's specialisation is not listed. Please contact ESPS staff on 1800 001 696 or e-mail esp@defence.gov.au for more information.

Multiple Employment Arrangements

If the Reservist is in a multiple employment arrangement

(e.g. employed in a public hospital and also has a private practice), both the Reservist and the hospital can claim.

What service is eligible?

Types of service that are eligible for higher level ESPS are listed on the DRS website. These include:

- service on an Australian Defence Force (ADF) operation;
- service undertaking pre-deployment training for an ADF operation;
- service on a training exercise or training course (as a student, instructor or conducting the course);
- service related to an Aero-Medical Evacuation;
- service on a naval ship deployment (whether a RAN or foreign ship);
- service as part of the Return to Australia Psychologist Screening (RTAPS) or Post Operation Psychologist Screening (POPS) programs;
- service as part of the Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Program (AACAP); or
- service as a Health Officer required for duty on an Australian Navy, Army or Air Force Cadet camp or training.

Other service may also be authorised by Commander Joint Health or Surgeon General ADF Reserves as eligible for higher level ESPS payments. This may include providing civil aid, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, assistance in a medical or civil emergency, or other medical support, duty or training opportunity.

Requirements

The service must be a minimum of 5 consecutive days (for pre-deployment training and Aero-Medical Evacuation, this is reduced to 3 days).

The Reservist must have been employed for a minimum period of at least three months prior to the Defence service.

The Reservist must have been released to undertake the Defence service.

If the Reservist is on annual leave, long service leave or any form of accrued leave entitlement, ESPS payments are not payable in respect of those days.

If the Reservist performs work in their business during the period of Defence service (except emergency work or work authorised in writing by the Reservist's Commanding Officer or branch head), ESPS payments are not payable in respect of those days.

How do I claim?

ESPS claims may be submitted online at www.defencereservessupport.gov.au and following the link to Employer Support Payment Scheme. You'll need a valid AUSkey (or myGov) account.

With the 1st claim in the financial year):

- evidence of the Reservist's employment (e.g. payment summary, payroll slip, group certificate, employment contract or other similar evidence) immediately prior to the claimed Defence service, and
- evidence of the Reservist's normal weekly hours of work for the employer.

For part-time employees, work hours evidence should cover the three month period prior to the claimed Defence service. The online claims system will guide you through the claims process, and identify which supporting evidence will be required.

Different evidentiary requirements apply to claims from Self-employed Reserve health professionals. These requirements vary, depending on whether the Reserve health professional has, or is contracted as a registered health practitioner to, a functioning medical, dental or allied health practice. For further details, visit the DRS website.

How much would be paid?

Payments vary, depending on the specialisation of the Reservist. Payment rates are updated annually and are detailed on the DRS website.

Injury/illness

If the Reservist is injured or becomes ill as a result of their Defence service, you may be entitled to receive higher level ESPS under the CDF Approval while they are recovering.

For more information on the ESPS

1800 001 696 or esp@defence.gov.au
www.defencereservessupport.gov.au