



RSL Media Release

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RSL Support for the ADF

The Returned & Services League of Australia fully supports the mission of the Australian Defence Force in Afghanistan and elsewhere as our servicemen and servicewomen give of their all in protecting our freedoms. We also give unequivocal support to the zero tolerance policy of the Australian Defence Force about the use of illicit drugs by members of the ADF. But we urge compassion and understanding for the very few who succumb to this usage.

We acknowledge that serving in places like Afghanistan is a relatively new phenomenon for members of the Australian Defence Force. There is no "state based" enemy and it is always possible that a presumed "ally" might, in an instant, show him or herself to be "the enemy". The psychological impact on young Australians of having to cope in these circumstances can only be imagined.

The RSL urges all Australians to be understanding of these unique and challenging circumstances.

Through our democratic processes we send the men and women of the ADF into harm's way. Almost all serve our nation with distinction and with great courage. Very few have adverse effects due to the enormous physical and psychological pressure to which they are subjected. As a compassionate and caring people, we owe it to the very few members of the ADF who fall by the wayside in this respect to be understanding of their predicament.

For more information contact:

Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd), National President
on 0410 627 873