

THE HON. DR MIKE KELLY AM MP Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support

Monday, 20 April 2009 018/2009

INQUIRY INTO RECOGNITION FOR SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENT DUTIES

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, today announced that the Independent Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal will inquire into the recognition of Australian Defence Force (ADF) service for Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) counter terrorist and special recovery duties.

"I am pleased that the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal will inquire into the recognition of SASR duties," Dr Kelly said.

"This new inquiry represents a continuation of reviews into long standing Defence honours and awards issues identified by the Government in 2007."

As part of this inquiry, the Tribunal will also consider the service of other ADF elements seconded to the SASR in the past, and those that fulfill current counter terrorist and special recovery responsibilities.

A call for submissions was released to the national press on Saturday, 18 April 2009. Submissions to the inquiry close on Monday, 18 May 2009.

"Many people have written to me concerning recognition for SASR duties and I would encourage them to now take advantage of this opportunity to make a submission to the Tribunal," Dr Kelly said.

The Tribunal can be contacted at:

Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal Locked Bag 7765 CANBERRA BUSINESS CENTRE ACT 2610

Or via email to DHA.Tribunal@defence.gov.au

The terms of reference for the inquiry and guidance on how to make a submission can be obtained at: www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au

Media contacts:

Mark Sjolander (Dr Mike Kelly): 02 6277 4840 or 0407 102 220 Defence Media Liaison: 02 6265 3343 or 0408 498 664