



DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

23 January 2014

MEDIA STATEMENT

RAN PERSONNEL DESERVE OUR TOTAL SUPPORT

The Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA) strongly endorses the recent words of the Chief of Navy, the Immigration Minister and the Prime Minister when they each expressed their strong support of our Royal Australian Navy personnel involved in border protection operations.

“The difficult challenges faced by members of the RAN in Operation Resolute are unique and cannot be underestimated”, said DFWA National President, David Jamison. “Not only are they working in personally demanding circumstances, they are under increasing media scrutiny that is often biased and inaccurate” he said.

“The impact on the morale of individual members can only be guessed, and it behoves the Australian community as a whole to stand behind members of the RAN at this difficult time, and to give them our full support and total confidence”, he said. He noted the recent words of the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, who said “This generation of men and women who wear the uniform are worthy of more respect than has been shown to them in the past few weeks”.

“I look forward to a time when the Nation’s support for the ADF is expressed more formally in a “Australian Military Covenant” or charter, he added. The proposed document would express the reality that ADF members are Australian citizens who, while serving, must forego basic Human Rights enjoyed by other citizens, and must comply with the additional disciplinary requirements of Military employment; and that Australia expects that when ordered to do so, and without the right to question, ADF personnel will complete all tasks assigned to them in a lawful and honourable way.

“There is no doubt that those involved in border protection operations are conducting themselves in a way that all Australians should be proud,” he concluded.

Contacts

Executive Director:

Alf Jaugietis (0438) 282 284

www.dfwa.org.au

National President:

David Jamison (0416) 107 557