



THE HON. JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Minister for Defence

THE HON. WARREN SNOWDON MP
Minister for Defence Science and Personnel

Saturday, 2 May 2009

**GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE HOUSING FOR
DEFENCE PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES**

The Minister for Defence, the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP, and the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, the Hon Warren Snowdon MP, today announced that the Government will invest almost \$400m over the next four years to improve housing and accommodation assistance for the Australian Defence Force. This investment forms part of the Government's commitment to spend an additional \$880m on our men and women in uniform over the next four years.

"The Rudd Government is determined to deliver improved housing options for Australian Defence Force members and their families," Mr Fitzgibbon said,

The funding will be allocated to meet increased housing and relocation costs, and also provide for targeted improvements in assistance for members of the Australian Defence Force.

"Australian Defence Force members, particularly those deployed, should not be distracted in the performance of their mission by concerns about the housing and relocation of their families," Mr Snowdon said.

"Those in uniform who have dependants will now have greater flexibility to maintain family stability in a location," Mr Snowdon said.

For those personnel on deployment for six months or more, there will no longer be any member contribution to pay to retain their accommodation while they're away.

In addition, a provision will also be made from 2010-11 for improved housing assistance to Australian Defence Force members who require support from a live-in carer due to a disability or while undergoing rehabilitation from injury or illness. These changes will provide greater flexibility, and choice in housing, which should also have a positive impact on personnel retention.

A Defence Force for the 21st Century

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The 2009 Defence White Paper represents the most comprehensive statement on Defence ever produced. It affirms the Government's commitment to the defence of Australia, the protection of our sovereign

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