



## Long Service Awards

Medallic recognition for long service within the Australian Defence Force (ADF) has gone through a variety of iterations since the introduction of the Australian Honours and Awards System in 1975.

### Defence Long Service Medal

In 1998 the third iteration of medallic recognition for long service, the Defence Long Service Medal (DLSM, *pictured right*), was introduced. The DLSM may be awarded to a member who has, on or after 14 February 1975, completed 15 years qualifying remunerated service in the Australian Defence Force. This includes qualifying service in the Permanent and Reserve Forces.



### Defence Force Service Awards

These awards consist of:

- Defence Force Service Medal
- Reserve Force Decoration (RFD)
- Reserve Force Medal (RFM)

### Defence Force Service Medal



To qualify for a Defence Force Service Medal (DFSM), a member is required to complete 15 years of efficient service prior to 20 April 1999 and must have been serving on or after 14 February 1975. Clasps are awarded for each further periods of 5 years efficient regular service. Reserve service does not qualify towards clasps for this medal. From 20 April 1999 the DFSM was replaced by the Defence Long Service Medal (DLSM).

A minimum of 12 years in the Regular Forces and up to 3 years in the Reserves can be counted towards the medal.

The qualifying period for these medals ended on 29 April 1999, however clasps are still awarded to eligible members.



## Clasps



Clasps to the Defence Force Service Awards and Defence Long Service Medal are awarded for each further period of five years efficient service. When the ribbon is worn alone, the first four clasps are indicated by the addition of rosettes.



These are replaced by a single silver Federation Star for the fifth clasp (*pictured right*). Additional Federation Star emblems are added for subsequent clasps. The medal ribbon, however, continues to be adorned with clasps as appropriate (*pictured left*), not with a Federation Star emblem.

## Annual service obligation for ADF Reserve members

To be deemed efficient for Long Service Award purposes, members of the Reserves must fulfil their annual obligations.

A year, for the purposes of Long Service Award assessment is calculated at the anniversary of a member's enlistment or appointment into the ADF. Transferring between service types (from permanent to reserves and vice versa) does not reset or adjust the anniversary date.

NOTE: Breaks in service may impact how this is calculated.

### Army

- Up to and including 30 June 1993: 26 days per enlistment year
- From 1 July 1993 up to and including 19 April 2000: 14 days per enlistment year
- ARMY Specialist Reserve. Up to and including 19 April 2000: 7 days per enlistment year
- From 20 April 2000: 20 days per enlistment year.

### Air Force

- RAAF Active Reserve. Up to and including 19 April 2000: 32 days per enlistment year
- RAAF General Reserve. Up to and including 19 April 2000: 1 day per enlistment year
- RAAF Specialist Reserve. Members who served from 1983/84 up to and including 19 April 2000: 7 days per (note- RAAFSR enlistments started in 1983 for some groups and later for other groups)
- From 20 April 2000: 20 days per enlistment year.

### Navy

- In the period up to and including 28 October 1991: 12 days per enlistment year
- From 29 October 1991 up to and including 19 April 2000: 1 day per enlistment year
- From 20 April 2000: 20 days per enlistment year.

A member who has previously been awarded the Defence Force Service Medal (DFSM), Reserve Force Decoration (RFD) or the Reserve Force Medal (RFM) may have service which has not been recognised due to the restrictions imposed by the regulations for these awards. In this case the member may elect to return the award and be awarded the Defence Long Service Medal, with appropriate clasps with all qualifying service being recognised.

- Sergeant Adams served 16 years in the regular Army and qualified for the Defence Force Service Medal (DFSM) in 1997
- He then discharged from the regular Army in 1998 and joined the Army Reserve, serving from 1999 to 2005 (5 years).
- Sergeant Adams is entitled to elect to exchange the previously awarded DFSM for a DLSD, with 1 clasp, as the additional 6 years' service (in total) takes him to the next qualifying period (20 years), for which Sergeant Adam had not received recognition.

[illegible]

# How to exchange the Defence Force Service Medal for the Defence Long Service Medal

If an applicant is assessed to be eligible for this, they will be advised of the next steps including information on how to return the original DFSM.

## How to apply for the Defence Long Service Medal

**Permanent members with no breaks in service** are not required to submit an application for the Australian Defence Medal or Defence Long Service Medal and Clasps as a PMKeyS Report will be generated at the start of each month. If the award does not appear on the Honours and Awards panel within PMKeyS within eight weeks of your service anniversary, please submit an online application.

**Permanent members with breaks in service** are required to submit an application for the Australian Defence Medal or Defence Long Service Medal and Clasps as the PMKeyS report does not recognise breaks in service.

- A break in service includes periods of absence without leave, detention, custody, imprisonment imposed by a civil authority, whilst in civil custody, or suspension from duty imposed under the Defence Force Discipline Act 1982 or Defence Regulation 2016.

**Reserve members** are required to submit an application for the Defence Long Service Medal and Clasps as the PMKeyS report does not recognise non-permanent service.

- Please provide the delivery address you wish awards to be dispatched to. For Reservists, this will default to your home address, unless you advise otherwise.

For further information search *Defence Medals* online or call  
1800 DEFENCE (1800 333 362)