



# **The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP**

## **Premier of NSW**

### **Minister for Western Sydney**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Sunday 3 July 2011

### **PREMIER PAYS TRIBUTE TO RESERVE FORCES**

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell has joined hundreds of Reservists and their families in Sydney to mark Reserve Forces Day.

It's the first time since the Parade commenced in 1998 that a NSW Premier has attended the event.

"As the son of a soldier, I understand how important it is that we honour and pass on the legacy of Australia's military history," Mr O'Farrell said.

"Today's Parade also paid fitting tribute to the mostly unheralded work of the Reservists' spouses who were presented with commemorative medallions.

"It's recognition of the sacrifice made by the partners of our Reservists in managing the home and family while their spouse is away.

"For the spouses presented with medallions today, the average time that they were required to support the service of their Reservist partner was 21 years.

"These spouses have played a vital role in supporting Reservists as they prepare for or participate in war and peace keeping operations.

"The event has also acknowledged the 90th anniversary of the formation of the RAAF, which since World War 1 has helped to make our nation proud and strong.

"Since the first Reserve Forces Day Parade was held in Sydney in 1998, it's grown to other regional centres including Newcastle, Wagga Wagga, Broken Hill, Tamworth, Parkes, Murwillumbah and Taree.

"In centres throughout our State today, people have stopped to recognise and honour those Reservists who are considered part-time soldiers but make a full time commitment to the defence and protection of our nation when required," Mr O'Farrell said.

The NSW Government has provided free public transport for the day for serving or former members with suitable identification or their medals.