

To The Honourable The Speaker and Members of The House of Representatives

This petition of Mark Rowell

Draws to the attention of the house: restrictions on the award of the Australian Service Medal (ASM), particularly with, but not limited to, the 'FIJI' clasp.

Usual conditions are that the Medal may be awarded to a member of the Australian Defence Force who rendered service while posted to or serving as a member of the prescribed operation for a period of 30 days, or for periods amounting in the aggregate to **30** days. The restriction imposed by the 30 day requirement means that all operational service is not recognised. Note: Some operations have a lesser qualifying period.

In the case of the 'FIJI' operation in 2006, as a military Psychologist I was deployed to HMAS Kanimbla following the Blackhawk helicopter crash to provide psychological debriefing and support, I could not complete 30 days service as the operation was ended by Government decision.

I therefore ask the house to:

Amend the regulations for the ASM to allow for greater discretion in its award, similar to the award of the Australian Active Service Medal, which requires 24 hours attached to an operation.

Or to allow for an award for less than 30 days service, if attached to the operation but unable to complete 30 days, if the operations ends prior.

To ensure categories of service person such as health professionals – who may be deployed for shorter periods than 30 days still have their service and contribution recognised.