



Police Federation
of Australia

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RECOMMENDATIONS TO
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
DEFENCE AND TRADE

**Inquiry into Australia's Involvement in Peacekeeping
Operations**

6 September 2007

That the committee seeks clarification from the AFP regarding the specific roles and duties performed by sworn police, Protective Service Officers and administration staff on overseas deployments.

That the committee support a National Police Workforce Planning Study commencing in 2008 as a collaborative effort between the Australian Government, the PFA and all state and territory jurisdictions.

That the committee support:

- that proposed compensation and rehabilitation benefits for police serving overseas be in a stand-alone piece of legislation and not an amendment to the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988;

- the proposed compensation and rehabilitation Act for police working overseas be administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs;
- the proposed compensation and rehabilitation Act for police working overseas cover all Australian police who work offshore in like roles to the IDG and AFP Liaison Officers, or any other role that the Commissioner may designate;
- the establishment of a career indemnity policy for police officers who are forced out of positions in Pacific nations due to un-justifiable circumstances;
- the establishment of a dispute resolution process for officers deployed as part of the International Deployment Group (IDG) to be developed in liaison between the PFA and the AFP;
- the concept that police officers who serve overseas as part of the International Deployment Group (IDG) receive appropriate recognition by way of a Medal of Service;
- the Police Overseas Service Medal (POSM) is retained and is the principal Service Medal for overseas deployments;
- a Police Division within the Order of Australia being established to recognise outstanding service and acts of bravery by Australia's police both within Australia and while on overseas deployments;
- that the entitlements under our proposed compensation and rehabilitation Act for police be commensurate to those provided to Defense Force personnel under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act and the Veterans' Entitlements Act;
- the proposed compensation and rehabilitation Act for police contain, as a minimum, the following provisions:
 - a special definition of 'extraordinary overseas policing' be included in the Act. The inclusion of such a definition is to give equality to the provisions of the Military Rehabilitation Compensation Act 2004;
 - a special definition of 'overseas policing' be included in the Act where the policing circumstances are of a lesser degree than 'extraordinary' for the same reasons as outlined above;

- that the Commissioner, Australian Federal Police, have responsibility for recommending to the Minister for Justice and Customs, being the Minister responsible for the Act, any overseas deployment that meets the definition of 'extraordinary overseas policing' or 'overseas policing' deployment;
- that any member of such a declared deployment be entitled to full coverage and benefits under the Act which should mirror the Military Rehabilitation Compensation Act 2004;
- that the onus of proof should be identical to that currently required under the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986;
- that an appeals system be included in the Act that is no less than that provided under the VEA;
- a review of all previous overseas deployments be undertaken with a view to determining which if any deployments should be upgraded to 'warlike' in a policing context;
- that provision be made for police membership on all relevant committees under the VEA as police make up a substantial and growing membership of VEA clients.