



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

27 NOVEMBER 1989

Four new awards - the Public Service Medal and three Defence Force awards - have been established under the Australian honours and awards system. The Queen has approved Letters Patent and Regulations establishing the Public Service Medal, the Nursing Service Cross, the Conspicuous Service Cross and the Conspicuous Service Medal.

The Regulations provide for the Public Service Medal to be awarded for outstanding public service by officers of Australian public services and other government and official authority employees.

Award of the medal will be made by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, State Premiers and the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory. The first awards may be announced in the 1990 Australia Day Honours List.

The Medal will carry an entitlement to the use of the post nominals 'PSM'.

The new award will be placed directly above the Australian Police Medal in the Australian Order of Precedence of Honours and Awards.

Arrangements are in hand for the manufacture of the insignia of the award which was designed by Mr Stuart Devlin AO CMG.

The three new Defence Force awards mean that six new awards for the Defence Force have recently been approved by The Queen on the recommendation of the Government.

The Nursing Service Cross will be used to recognise outstanding performance of nursing duties in both operational and non-operational situations. The Conspicuous Service Cross will recognise outstanding achievement or devotion to duty and the Conspicuous service Medal will recognise meritorious achievement or devotion to duty. The Conspicuous Service Decorations will be awarded for service in non-warlike situations.

The Nursing Service Cross will carry an entitlement to the use of the post nominals 'NSC', the Conspicuous Service Cross, the post nominals 'CSC' and the Conspicuous Service Medal, the post nominals 'CSM'. The awards will be made by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister for Defence.

The Conspicuous Service Cross and the Nursing Service Cross respectively will be placed immediately after the Member of the Order of the British Empire in the Australian Order of Precedence of Honours and Awards. The Conspicuous Service Medal will be placed after the Bravery Medal.

In September last year The Queen approved the first three of a total of 15 new awards for the Defence Force. They were the Australian Active Service Medal, the Australian Service Medal and the Champion Shots Medal.

A further announcement will be made when the remaining awards, which will recognise service in warlike situations, receive The Queens' approval.