



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

8 NOVEMBER 1988

The Queen has approved Letters Patent and Regulations establishing three Defence Force awards: the Australian Active Service Medal; the Australian Service Medal; and the Champion Shots Medal. The awards will form part of the Australian system of honours and awards.

The Australian Active Service Medal will be used to recognise service in minor campaigns. Separate awards for service in major conflicts will be instituted, if and when the need arises in the future, in accordance with established tradition. The Australian Service Medal will be for service in peacekeeping and other military but non warlike operations and the Champion Shots Medal for annual rifle shooting contests in the Defence Force.

The awards will be made by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister for Defence. In the Australian Order of Precedence of Honours and Awards gazetted on 2 November 1988 the Australian Active Service Medal is placed immediately before all existing war and campaign service medals. The Australian Service Medal is placed after all war and campaign medals and the Champion Shots Medal is placed directly after the National Medal.

The three awards are the first of the new range of Australian awards for Defence Force personnel, which I announced on Australia Day 1986. The introduction of the full range of awards will provide, for the first time, a national system of recognition of operational and non-operational service which will meet the requirements of the Defence Force far into the future. A further announcement will be made when the remaining awards receive The Queen's formal approval.

3308