



PRIME MINISTER

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The establishment of a new award in the Australian honours system allows governments to officially recognise outstanding service by public service officers and other government employees.

The first recipients of the new award, the Public Service Medal, are announced in the Australia Day Honours List. They include nineteen awards for Federal Government officers.

The Queen recently approved the establishment of the Public Service Medal on the recommendation of the Government. The formal regulations for the Medal provide for the Commonwealth and other governments to make recommendations for the Medal to the Governor-General.

The dedication, competence and integrity required of public servants are not always fully appreciated. These qualities are vital to the community. Public servants serve the Government and the community in many ways. Their work and advice - for instance, in economic and financial policy, trade negotiations, or overseas representation - can affect the well-being of the whole community and Australia's standing in the world. Their commitment and ability in delivering services can affect the well-being of individuals in the community. It is in the nation's interest to have a professional, effective and highly-motivated public service.

This new award provides a tangible means for governments to express formal recognition of outstanding and meritorious service performed for the community and the nation generally.

Officers receiving the first awards on the recommendation of the Commonwealth Government cover a wide representation of employees from Administrative Service Officer Class 2 to Senior Executive Service Level 4 Officers. The officers serve in most States and Territories. Five are women.

The Medal carries an entitlement to the use of the post nominals "PSM".

Departments and authorities are encouraged to make nominations for the PSM. A Committee chaired by the Public Service Commissioner advises the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Public Service Matters, the Hon Peter Morris MP, on all nominations. Mr Morris, on behalf of the Government, makes formal recommendations for the PSM to the Governor-General.