



## **The Hon Darren Chester MP**

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel

29 May 2019

### **HONOURING UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPERS**

TODAY is International Day of United Nations (UN) Peacekeepers and we are encouraged to recognise those personnel who have contributed to global peacekeeping efforts.

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester said Australia has made a significant contribution to worldwide peace operations in war and conflicts for more than 70 years.

“Since 1947, Australian men and women have participated in peacekeeping operations with the aim of making the world a safer and more peaceful place,” Mr Chester said.

“Tragically, 16 Australians have died while serving as peacekeepers striving for peace in regions around the world and today we honour their memory and thank all those who have served in UN operations.”

Australia has made significant contributions to peace operations, including commanding operations in Kashmir, Cambodia, the Sinai, Iraq and East Timor. Currently, Australians are deployed on operations in South Sudan, the Middle East and Cyprus.

“Since Australia’s commitment to the first UN peacekeeping mission in 1947, Australian military, police and civilians have been involved in more than 50 multi-national peacekeeping operations,” Mr Chester said.

“I would like to thank all those who have served as peacekeepers, you have made, and continue to make an incredible contribution to the world.”

Australian Peacekeepers are commemorated on a memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra, acknowledging and honouring their courage, sacrifice and service to the global community.

**ENDS**

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