



## T R E A S U R E R

---

### MEDIA RELEASE

# Reforms make it easier for defence personnel to realise great Australian home dream

Defence personnel will find it easier to realise the Australian dream of home ownership after reforms to the first home buyers grant passed the NSW Parliament today.

“This is the first time that defence personnel will receive appropriate recognition in a State or Territory first home buyers grant program,” NSW Treasurer Eric Roozendaal said.

“These changes will help the men and women who serve in our armed forces realise the great Australian dream.”

A key rule of the First Home Owner Grant is that the new home owner must live in the dwelling for six months.

This regulation is problematic for defence personnel, who can often be called away at short notice for duty.

“The NSW Government has reformed the rules so the men and women protecting our country are not unfairly disadvantaged,” Mr Roozendaal said.

“Defence personnel will not have to meet the residency provision in NSW first home owners programs – this gives our service men and women one less thing to worry about while they’re serving Australia’s interests.”

The reforms are in response to community concerns and representations from State parliamentarians who have defence personnel in their electorates, including State Labor MP for Menai Alison Megarrity.

“The men and women who serve in our armed forces are prepared to sacrifice their lives in active duty and deserve to be supported in every way possible,” Mr Roozendaal said.

“That’s why the NSW Government is leading the nation by expanding eligibility criteria for First Home Owner Grants to ensure defence personnel don’t miss out on this generous program.”

The Australian Defence Force has about 3,000 members deployed to 12 different overseas operations including Iraq, Afghanistan and East Timor.

About 500 ADF personnel are involved in domestic operations such as protecting Australia's borders and they can also be called interstate at short notice.

Since the introduction of first home buyer grants in July 2000, more than 422,000 first home buyers have received grants and stamp duty exemptions worth in excess of \$6.2 billion.

**October 28, 2009**

---