

FOR SERVICE

— A MATTER OF HONOUR —



**SUBMISSION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
AUSTRALIAN BORDER PROTECTION MEDAL (ABPM)**

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	Page 4
BACKGROUND	Page 6
PROPOSAL	Page 13
RECOMMENDATION	Page 16
Armed Commonwealth Law Enforcement Officers	Page 16
Non-Armed Commonwealth Law Enforcement Officers	Page 16
Commonwealth Intelligence and Surveillance Officers	Page 17
State and Territory Police Officers	Page 17
Royal Papua and New Guinea Constabulary Members	Page 17
Further Explanation Regarding State and Territory Police and the RPNGC Eligibility	Page 17
State and Territory Police	Page 18
Royal Papua and New Guinea Constabulary	Page 19
Eligibility of the proposed ABPM	Page 20
Requirements of the proposed ABPM	Page 20
Significance of the proposed ABPM	Page 21
Medal Design of the proposed ABPM	Page 21
Obverse of the proposed ABPM	Page 21
Reverse of the proposed ABPM	Page 21
Medal Ribbon of the proposed ABPM	Page 21
Ribbon Design of the proposed ABPM	Page 23
CONCLUSION	Page 25

I have done the state some service, and they know't

Othello, Act V Scene II



INTRODUCTION

National Police Remembrance Day is commemorated annually on 29 September, the feast day of Saint Michael the Archangel, patron saint of law enforcement officers. It is also appropriate that we pay tribute of the duty and sacrifice of the silent minority being the thousands of Commonwealth law enforcement and intelligence officers who have all volunteered to protect our borders against threats, both real or perceived, in time of peace, wartime, and against the ever-present threat of terrorism and crime, as distinct and unique specialists' within their chosen fields.

The role of a Federal law enforcement and intelligence officer is unique. The risks are great and the work is varied over numerous operating environments and platforms both within Australia's various States and Territories, as well as internationally. Australia's national security protocols have evolved with officers and agents now facing greater risks. With this also comes public and political scrutiny.

It is time that these men and woman, both past and present who have served are honoured with an equivalent medal to that awarded to members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) being the Australian Defence Medal (ADM). There is currently no national medal that is awarded to recognise the commitment by a wide cross-section of Commonwealth law enforcement and intelligence officers which is in contrast to the ADM that was introduced to recognise the contribution of those who have served in the ADF since the end of World War II.

The creation of the ADM has set a precedent in service medals within the Australian Honours System. It is only fair and just that our civilian paramilitary professionals be given a similar honour.

This submission is dedicated to the memory of the late Protective Service Officer Adam Dunning of the Australian Protective Service who died in the service of his country.

*People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only
because rough men stand ready to do violence on their
behalf*

George Orwell



BACKGROUND

The current recognition for Commonwealth law enforcement and intelligence officers and agents is basically non-existent and can be seen as discriminatory when recognition for Australian Defence Force personnel are recognised for service with the award of the Australian Defence Medal (ADM).

The ADM was formally established on 8 September 2005, pursuant to Letters Patent, by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second. In the Letters Patent, Her Majesty declared the ADM to be governed by the *Australian Defence Medal Regulations 2005* ('the 2005 Regulations'), in which the purpose of the ADM was described as follows:¹

"WHEREAS it is desirable that there be instituted an Australian medal for the purpose of according recognition to those persons who have made a significant commitment to the nation through service in the Australian Defence Force since 3 September 1945"

Although the eligibility criteria has slightly changed since inception, the purpose of the ADM has remained the same, namely to recognise those ADF personnel who have made a 'significant commitment to the nation through service' in the ADF since 3 September 1945. The ADM is a service medal and Government has recognised that a 'significant commitment' by members of the ADF is reflected by those who have;

- Fulfilled their initial enlistment commitment, or served four years, whichever is the lesser;
- Died during service;
- Been discharged as medically unfit due to compensable impairment;
- Been discharged due to a prevailing discriminatory service policy.

It is a fact that not all Commonwealth law enforcement and intelligence officers and agents get any type of national recognition. Customs, Immigration, Quarantine, Fisheries, and the

¹ *Australian Defence Medal Regulations 2005 (Cth)*

silent few of those who work in the shadows of covert operations (ASIO and ASIS) are excluded from the National Medal, whilst their counterparts as Federal, State, Territory sworn police officers, and former officers of the now disbanded Australian Protective Service (APS) are eligible for the award of the National Medal.

Recently on the 24th September 2008 in Parliament, the then Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon. Bob Debus gave an undertaking to follow up on the status of a proposed Medal (National Police Service Medal) within the relevant Ministerial Portfolio.³

“It is shocking to realise, in the past 20 years, 111 police officers have been killed on duty. This means on average nearly six a year. Unfortunately, it is mostly young officers who have their lives cut short while they are serving their communities. Out of 111, 88 were constables.....

“The Police Federation of Australia, through its president Vince Kelly, has asked that the government give serious consideration to the creation of a national police service medal for serving police officers. The government has, of course, been very willing to examine that request in more detail. While I understand there is quite a lot of work to be done to advance that proposal, I am pleased to advise the House that the government is working closely with the relevant authorities to clarify the formal requirements and to consider the necessary protocols in detail. I believe we have to talk to the palace [Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II] about these things.”

“At this time of remembrance it is also appropriate that we give consideration to how we do recognise serving officers. I hope to be in a position to provide the House with an update on the matter of a national police service medal in the not-too-distant future. We thank the thousands of men and woman in state and territory police forces and the Australian Federal Police who serve our

3 Refer to AFPA Bulletin: *NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE MEDAL A STEP CLOSER* dated 25 September 2008 authorised by Jon Hunt-Sharman, National President, Australian Federal Police Association

community so well and confront risky, difficult situations on a daily basis.”

On 4 December 2008 the Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) National President Jon Hunt-Sharman and Police Federation of Australia (PFA) Chief Executive Officer Mark Burgess met with the then Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon. Bob Debus in relation to the Rudd Government’s election promises to the AFP/PFA to establish a specific National Police Service Medal.⁴

The new National Police Service Medal (NPSM) would be awarded to sworn State, Territory and Federal Police in recognition of long and diligent service.

The then Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon. Bob Debus public statement explained that the NPSM recognised the special status police had because of their role protecting the community

“This new medal shows our continuing support for the work done by the 50,000 men and woman who place their own safety at risk to protect our quality of life, security and freedom.”

Cabinet Secretary, Senator John Faulkner, said the Queen had approved the establishment of a separate medal in the Australian Honours System. *“Recognition for police service since the establishment of Australia’s national system of honours and awards in 1975 has been through the National Medal.”*

Senator Faulkner has further stated: *“The National Medal will continue to recognise long and diligent service by members of organisations that help the community during times of crisis, including fire, ambulance, emergency and voluntary search and rescue organisations.”*

The PFA CEO, Mark Burgess has stated that the decision would be welcomed by members. *“It is a tangible acknowledgement by*

⁴ Refer to AFPA Bulletin: *NEW POLICE SERVICE MEDAL FOR DILIGENT SERVICE* dated 15 September 2008 authorised by Jon Hunt-Sharman, National President, Australian Federal Police Association

the Government of the unique role that police officers play in the preservation of peace, the protection of life and property and the maintenance of law and order throughout Australia.”

Whilst the creation of a new medal recognising ‘sworn police’ (Constables of Police) should be commended and is fully supported by the author, recognition for their (serving, retired and deceased) peers in Commonwealth law enforcement and the intelligence services is still lacking. Whilst the statements made by the Honourable Bob Debus should be commended in establishing a ‘police’ long service medal and shows a true commitment to long serving police officers, the very people the Minister made mention of being ‘*mostly constables*’ would not be regarded as eligible for the newly created award, and as such still continue to not be recognised.

The initiative of the Police Federation of Australia (PFA) in relation to the creation of the NPSM did not take into account any Commonwealth law enforcement officer who does not hold the sworn status of Constable of Police. Commonwealth officers (law enforcement and intelligence) do face different, yet the same degree of risk in order to protect the community and our borders, such as being exposed to drugs, Chemical, Biological and Radiological ‘weapons’ and substances, injury, assault and or killed on duty to name a few examples.

These Federal law enforcement and intelligence professionals from both generalist and specialist areas have been excluded, and have been ‘left out in the cold’. In addition, the thousands of State, Territory and Federal Police Officers who serve for a lesser period of fifteen years will also get no recognition on a National Level. The reasons for members in Commonwealth law enforcement, State, Territory or Federal policing not achieving fifteen years service are many yet can be summed up either due to injury, ill-health (including stress) death, lack of career progression / promotional opportunities or career change.

The officer or agent cuts short his/her career for a variety of reasons as previously touched on. This is not because the officer

could not last the fifteen years, nor has served less courageously or admirably in their chosen career field than their peers who have served the mandated fifteen years. Times have changed since the various long service medals were created, some could say a different time and different place than the society of today. Officers are exposed to a greater degree of risk than say twenty years ago. Back then, most law enforcement roles were considered 'jobs for life'; This is now not the case as is reflective of the media release by the Audit Office of New South Wales dated 10 December 2008 titled '*NSW Auditor-General's Report - Early retirement of Police Officers increasing*' stated;⁵

"The Auditor-General, Mr Peter Achterstraat, today stated that frontline policing is at risk due to the early medical retirement of experienced police officers"

"Since a new Death and Disability Scheme was introduced in 2005, medical retirements under this scheme have tripled in the first 2 years"

It is a fact that officers and agents do not choose to get sick, disabled, affected by stress and from other issues that would otherwise cut short their careers, however they do stand up, volunteer, serve with honour, and enforce the nations laws to protect our nation where others choose not to take that path, even though it may lead to the members ill-health or death. Whether society admits it or not, 'The Job' does take its toll on both a professional and personal level and in most cases it can not be avoided as it comes with the badge. Something is definitely wrong when a society chooses to ignore the sacrifice of the very people chosen to protect them from harm.

National recognition is sought by former members from these distinct communities who have served less time. A lesser time frame does not make the officer or agent less worthy of due recognition, in which the creation of the ADM for members of the ADF reflects this. There has been a desire from certain Customs

⁵ Refer to Media Release: *NSW AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT , Early retirement of Police Officers increasing* dated 10 December 2008 by Mr Barry Underwood, NSW Audit Office.

Officers that the National Medal be issued to members of the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS)⁶ however as Senator Faulkner has explained, the National Medal will continue to recognise long and diligent service by members of organisations that help the community during times of crisis, including fire, ambulance, emergency and voluntary search and rescue organisations, and as such the law enforcement community has evolved from this criteria given their special nature and differing roles in community protection and is no longer relevant. This is also expressed by the PFA's insistence for Federal, State and Territory sworn police officers to have their own long service medal, being the NPSM. Certain Commonwealth law enforcement and intelligence officers do not fit into either category of the National Medal and NPSM by definition.

We now have an opportunity not to reinvent the wheel but to create a unique medal that will appease both police and the Commonwealth law enforcement and intelligence officers alike, with a medal that will ensure the integrity of the Australian Honours System.

⁶ Refer to online petition titled *NATIONAL MEDAL FOR AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS OFFICERS*, located at <http://www.petitiononline.com/NMACS08/petition.html>, by Ms Liz Curtis (liz.curtis@globotech-industries.com)

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called
sons of God*

Matthew 5:9



PROPOSAL

The professions of Commonwealth law enforcement and intelligence officers is not dissimilar to that of a member of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) in that all are paramilitary in nature, and in which the risk could be gauged similar, although throughout different operating environments and theatres' of conflict. Of course there are certain Federal law enforcement roles that are in-fact considered white-coloured investigatory or intelligence roles, and are not on the 'front line' however in essence, have displayed the same commitment, sacrifice, morale courage, and duty that their counterparts in the ADF display. Make no mistake that these positions are crucial to the fight against crime and terrorism, essential to keep society from harm, and are indeed different from a standard public service administrative role.

The establishment of the proposed ***Australian Border Protection Medal (ABPM)*** would provide recognition of those who have and continue to protect the nation in peacetime, wartime or significant and or elevated threat.

In general, serving, injured, retired and deceased members are being officially excluded from being recognised where as their counterparts in the ADF have been formally acknowledged with the ADM. This could be seen as elitism and is defiantly seen as discriminatory. The author who is a recipient of the ADM feels that like members of the ADF, members of the Commonwealth law enforcement and intelligence communities who have served similar eligibility requirements to that of the ADM should be acknowledged for their sacrifice, dedication to duty and service to the country on a National Security platform. The author acknowledges that the ADM is a military award, however is of the opinion that law enforcement is a paramilitary role within the civilian population. Uniforms, traditions, protocols, equipment are similar, based loosely along those employed in the 'Profession of Arms'. In addition the armed Commonwealth law enforcement officers are expected to place themselves in harms way in the execution of their duty in order to protect the community and uphold the rule of law; this also extends to certain unarmed

officers and agents. The author does not wish to have the ADM awarded to any civilian law enforcement or intelligence officer, however proposes the creation of a distinct award separate to the long service awards (National Medal and National Police Service Medal) tailored along the lines of the ADM for Commonwealth law enforcement officers, intelligence officers of ASIO and ASIS and State and Federal Police Officers.

The proposed award is not intended for correctional, emergency, fire, and or volunteer organisations. In addition the award is not intended for any Local, State, and Territory law enforcement role (transit police, sheriffs, local law officers, council/city rangers etc.). In addition the author is not supportive of the eligibility criteria extending to non sworn members (e.g. staff serving in administrative, transit, security, Volunteers In Policing roles, nor any person holding Special Constable status etc within Federal, State and Territory law enforcement organisations).

The authors list is not exhaustive yet is reflective of Commonwealth law enforcement and intelligence officers that face a higher degree of risk given the nature of their roles. The person must or have been employed as a law enforcement officer or intelligence officer. There will be some compliance, investigative and intelligence roles not mentioned in this submission that may be eligible given the nature of their roles.

In short the author appreciates the roles of Local, State and Territory ancillary services; however these occupants are to be excluded as they do not hold a Commonwealth law enforcement status nor contribute in any form to National Security or Border Protection. The award is solely intended for our Commonwealth Border Protection professionals previously or currently deployed within Australia and internationally.

The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding, go out to meet it

Thucydides, *Greek historian (471 BC - 400 BC)*



RECOMMENDATION

To establish the ***Australian Border Protection Medal (ABPM)*** recognising Commonwealth Law Enforcement Officers and Intelligence Officers as prescribed below;

Armed Commonwealth Law Enforcement Officers

- Federal Agents, Constables of Police, Protective Service Officers from the Australian Federal Police (AFP);
- Protective Service Officers from the former Australian Protective Service (APS), Protective Service Constables of the former Protective Service component of the AFP, Constables from the former 3RD Commonwealth Police, and Peace Officers of the former Peace Officer Guard (POG);
- Customs Officers (including Maritime Enforcement Officers and Crew) from the Australian Customs & Border Protection Service (ACBPS), and former Australian Customs Service (ACS); and
- Physical Surveillance Operatives, Investigators, Covert Source Handlers and Controllers, Seconded police, of the Australian Crime Commission (ACC) and the former National Crime Authority (NCA).

Non-armed Commonwealth Law Enforcement and Intelligence Officers

- Fisheries Officers from the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA);
- Quarantine Officers (Seaports, Airports, Mail Centres and Detector Dog programmes) from the Australian Quarantine & Inspection Service (AQIS);
- Customs officers from the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) , Australian Customs Service (ACS), Federal Narcotics Bureau (FNB) ;
- Immigration Officers (Compliance) from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC); and
- Intelligence Analysts and Officers of the AFP, ACC, ACBPS, former ACS, State and Territory Police.

- Investigators from the DIAC, AFP, ACC, ACBPS, former ACS, former NCA, and former Commonwealth Investigation Service (CIS).

Commonwealth Intelligence and Surveillance Officers

- Intelligence Officers, Analysts, Operations Officers, Surveillance Officers, Technical Officers, and Volunteers from the Australian Security & Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) and the Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS)
- Any individuals who have been involved in non-military Intelligence Operations as actors; agents and Human Intelligence assets. This includes operations and training environments in order to assist with the operational readiness of such Intelligence Officers.

State and Territory Police Officer

- Constables of Police from the New South Wales Police Force, Western Australia Police Service, Queensland Police Service, Northern Territory Police, Tasmania Police, Victoria Police Force, and South Australia Police (taking into account name changes of the 'Forces'); and
- Intelligence Analysts, Intelligence Officers, and Assistant Intelligence Officers (non armed – non sworn) from the above 'Forces'.

Royal Papua and New Guinea Constabulary Members

- Regular Constabulary;
- Field Constabulary;
- Special Constables; and
- Native Constables.

Further Explanation Regarding State and Territory Police and the RPNGC Eligibility

It is the authors opinion that State and Territory Police, as well as members of the Royal Papua and New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) be eligible for the proposed ***Australian Border Protection Medal (ABPM)***. Reasons for the decision to include these members are listed on the following two pages.

State and Territory Police

That all sworn Constables of Police of the various State and Territory Police organisations be included in the eligibility criteria of the proposed ***Australian Border Protection Medal (ABPM)***.

It is fact that State and Territory police are regularly seconded to the AFP, ACC, and the former NCA to perform duties on behalf of the Commonwealth. State and Territory Police have dual powers under certain Commonwealth legislation and as a result enforce Commonwealth law. In addition, Constables of Police perform duties under the umbrella of the AFP for international Police peacekeeping operations, and assist with public order / riot control response to demonstrations aimed at foreign missions, and other establishments (Prime Ministers official residences to name an example). Sworn Constables of Police also play an integral part in joint Commonwealth/State operations.

Numerous Constables have been injured or killed as part of the above said duties, such as 13 February 1978, when an explosive device detonated outside the Hilton Hotel which played host to the first Commonwealth Heads of Government Regional Meeting (CHOGRM). The bomb, which was planted in a rubbish bin, exploded when it was emptied into a garbage truck outside the hotel in the early hours of the morning that killed two garbage men and a New South Wales police officer who was guarding the entrance to the hotel. Another New South Wales Police Officer, suffered horrific injuries in the blast. In essence it is regarded as Australia's first Domestic Terrorist Attack which injured and killed police performing Commonwealth protection duties. It highlights the risks, sacrifice and national security issues that affect all Commonwealth law enforcement and intelligence professionals.

These members serve the Crown and Country with Honour and are considered part of the Border Protection folio. In addition, members of the various State and Territory Police organisations employed in an Intelligence role should also be included in the eligibility criteria given their invaluable contribution to intelligence-led policing.

Royal Papua and New Guinea Constabulary

That all policing members of the Royal Papua and New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) that operated between 1949 to 1974 in the then Australian Territory of Papua and New Guinea (TPNG) be eligible for the proposed **Australian Border Protection Medal (ABPM)** on the provision that the member meet the eligibility requirements of the award. All members of the four branches of the 'Force' who were serving on the first day of Papua New Guinea's independence (16 September 1975) would be eligible even if they had not achieved 4 years service. All members operated in a domestic capacity and not in a foreign country, serving in a civilian police force of Australia.

Of special mention are the Patrol Officers or Kiaps as locally known, who were sworn, armed, commissioned officers of the Field Constabulary branch of the RPNGC, which administered law and order in the rural regions, including restricted areas. Recruited through the Department of External Territories (via the Commonwealth Gazette), Kiaps were mostly young Australian born men in their twenties. These police officers wore many 'hats' given that they were the face of the 'Australian Government' in the TPNG, however it is the primary policing role that these members performed that deserves the recognition in relation to the proposed **ABPM**.

Numerous of the Constabulary died from being murdered in horrific circumstances, victims of aircraft accidents, drownings and disease. Officers were injured or disappeared without trace, and none have been recognised by the Australian Government for their service.

Each country has had its extreme 'frontiers' or Territories that are policed and protected by a paramilitary policing force. Canada has its North West Mounted Police or RCMP as it is now known, America its Border Patrol, United Kingdom had its South African Constabulary under the leadership of Lord Baden Powell, and Australia the RPNGC. It is time for these brave Australian Public Servants to be recognised.

Eligibility of the proposed ABPM

That the proposed ***Australian Border Protection Medal (ABPM)*** will be considered a service medal, and that a 'significant commitment' since 3 September 1945 be reflected by those members of the Border Protection community who have;

- Fulfilled no less than four years service; unless
- The death of a member occurs during service;
- The retirement of a member as medically unfit due to a work cause compensable impairment or other acceptable condition (stress, hurt on duty, heart disease [can be linked to stress, and affects on lifestyle due to nature of work] etc.); or
- The agency / unit disbanded, redeployment of member to another agency, voluntary or forced redundancy, given restructure of unit, agency or department.

Requirements of the proposed ABPM

The proposed ***Australian Border Protection Medal (ABPM)*** would be considered a good conduct medal (anti corruption) .

The proposed ***Australian Border Protection Medal (ABPM)*** would be exempt from any repatriation benefits.

The proposed ***Australian Border Protection Medal (ABPM)*** is to take into account cumulative service. Cumulative Service allows an officer or agent to break service for an unspecified period and come back either to last agency or join a new agency fulfilling prescribed service relating to law enforcement or intelligence.

The proposed ***Australian Border Protection Medal (ABPM)*** would sit after and alongside the Australian Defence Medal (ADM) in the Australian Honours System Order of Precedence.

The proposed ***Australian Border Protection Medal (ABPM)*** would be considered a service medal, however would not be considered a Long Service Medal.

Significance of the proposed ABPM

The author suggests that the proposed ***Australian Border Protection Medal (ABPM)*** as with the Australian Defence Medal (ADM) be backdated to take account after World War II, and as such should be the catalyst of remembrance for this purpose.

The proposed award seeks to recognise past and present Australian Commonwealth law enforcement and intelligence officers who in an either armed or non armed capacity, have or continue to confront a degree of risk in the execution of their duty.

Proposed Design Of The Australian Border Protection Medal

It is recommended that the proposed ***Australian Border Protection Medal*** should be a circular medal similar to that of the ADM in design, however should be black in colour, and shiny in appearance, significant to remembrance and solemn reflection.

Obverse of the Proposed ABPM

It is recommended that the proposed ***Australian Border Protection Medal*** that the obverse should feature the Commonwealth Coat of Arms surround by a Laurel Leaf with the top outer edge inscribed with the words '***The Australian Border Protection Medal***'.

Reverse of the proposed ABPM

It is recommended that the proposed ***Australian Border Protection Medal*** that the reverse should feature the Federation Star and be ensigned with the Crown of St Edward which is also known as the Queen's Crown that has been the official crown used on police, government and service insignia since Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, ascended the throne in 1952. It is proposed that the medal includes the words 'For Service'

Medal Ribbon of the proposed ABPM

It is recommended that the proposed ribbon colours are divided into nine sections, representing the Australian Capital Territory,

New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, Northern Territory and Commonwealth Governments.

It is recommended that the outer segments are black in colour, symbolising the scorched earth after a Terrorist attack. The left black segment represents the black armband worn on the left sleeve during a funeral by the deceased comrades. The right segment represents the covert role relating to criminal and terrorist investigations, tactical enforcement and counter terrorism response.

It is recommended that the next inner segments are red in colour, denoting sacrifice. The left red segment represent the blood shed from death or injury from an officer. The right red segment represents that our members have always been on 'active duty'.

It is recommended that the preceding segments are white in colour denoting the peace of Australia. The white left segment represents the fight against white collar crime, and the right white segment represents the good of a law enforcement officer, being a 'white knight'.

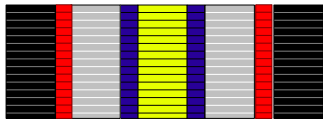
It is recommended that following segments are blue in colour which represents the law enforcement and intelligence services ('the Thin Blue Line') of the Commonwealth. The left blue segment represents the Sky above patrolled by Air Marshals, Coast Watch and PoIAir. The right blue representing the border of the Pacific and Indian oceans surrounding Australia, protected by Commonwealth law enforcement officers on sea from Fisheries Officers, Customs Officers, Quarantine Officers and Water Police.

It is recommended that the central yellow segment represents winning the fight against crime including terrorism.

It is recommended that the black, yellow and white represents the Aboriginal flag reflecting the indigenous (including Torres Strait Islanders) Australians of the professions. The personnel that make up the law enforcement and intelligence services are multicultural and diverse, which should be celebrated. The red, white and blue also representing the Colours of our National Flag. The colours of

Red, Yellow and Black signifying the colours of Papua New Guinea for members of the Royal Papua and New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) that operated between 1949 to 1974 in the then Australian Territory (TPNG).

Ribbon Design of the Proposed ABPM



The object of giving medals, stars and ribbons is to give pride and pleasure to those who have deserved them. At the same time a distinction is something which everybody does not possess. If all have it, it is of less value. There must, therefore, be heart-burnings and disappointments on the borderline. A medal glitters, but it also casts a shadow. The task of drawing up regulations for such awards is one which does not admit of a perfect solution. It is not possible to satisfy everybody without running the risk of satisfying nobody. All that is possible is to give the greatest satisfaction to the greatest number and to hurt the feelings of the fewest.

Winston Churchill (Prime Minister) – 22 March

1944



CONCLUSION

For far too long our Commonwealth law enforcement and intelligence officers and agents have been ignored on a national level, whether or not they have been recognised by the respective agencies, which currently is rare or non-existent.

Fifteen years service is a remarkable milestone in any career and rightly so this should be recognised on a national level. However national recognition is sought by former members who have served less time. Most of the awardees of the National Medal and the soon to be introduced National Police Service Medal hold senior non-operational positions, with only a minority being classed as 'operational'.

Where is the recognition for professionals both past and present that have or do serve with the same drive, passion and motivation than these mostly senior officers who are not all on the 'front-line'. We must ask ourselves as a society if it is fair to give the military a national award in the form of the ADM for service, where our civilian Commonwealth law enforcement and intelligence members are totally ignored. We must ask ourselves are we as a society embarrassed by our Commonwealth law enforcement and intelligence officers, and of the opinion that they do not deserve the same honour as bestowed to the military. We must ask ourselves when we bury one of the 'thin blue line' have we recognised them for their sacrifice.

There is no argument that members of the ADF place their life in harms way whilst in training, on duty at home and abroad, and by the very nature of their specialist role in the military. The same can be said of federal law enforcement and intelligence officers and agents who do the same, although there is a distinction between war fighting and fighting crime, national security, counter terrorism, anti terrorism and community protection.

The fact is, unlike military members, Commonwealth law enforcement and intelligence officers daily encounter situations that place the member's life at risk when they go to work, this is a

fact. In most cases they swear an oath or affirmation and serve the nation in their specialist careers within agencies/departments. This is evident by the death of Adam Dunning, the sworn Protective Service Officer of the Australian Protective Service (APS) who was shot and killed by an assailant in the course of his duty whilst deployed to the Solomon Islands. Adam has not received a National Award to recognise his service as a PSO with the APS-AFP on length of service nor for being killed in the line of duty. Although receiving the Police Overseas Service Medal (POSM) posthumously for his service with RAMSI, and receiving full police honours at his police funeral, Australia has not honoured his service as a Commonwealth law enforcement officer in the form of an award specifically tailored to his career as a PSO, even though our national leaders gave him praise's at his funeral.

It is true that if an officer, constable, or agent is killed or dies (which has occurred in the past and will continue in the future) their plaudits will be sung by our leaders (often protected by these members). It is true that they are expected that they will be above corruption and have the highest probity standards within society; and it is expected that they will if part of their office, face a degree of risk that could injure or disable the member, and it is true that they may be forced to kill or be killed for simply doing their job; and it is true that not one of these officers will get nationally recognised which in the authors opinion is a national disgrace.

The proposed ***Australian Border Protection Medal (ABPM)*** would recognise the past and present *'men and woman who place their own safety at risk to protect our quality of life, security and freedom'*.



Adam Brett ELM *GradCertCrimIntel(CSU)*

6 September 2009