



T R E A S U R E R

MEDIA RELEASE

Reforms to first home buyers grant – Defence personnel – introduced to NSW Parliament

Reforms to the first home buyers program to help defence personnel realise the Australian dream of home ownership were introduced to the NSW Parliament today.

This will be the first time that defence personnel will receive appropriate recognition in a State or Territory first home buyers grant program.

“These changes will help the men and women who serve in our armed forces realise the Australian dream,” NSW Treasurer Eric Roozendaal said.

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 becomes problematic for defence personnel when they are called away at short notice for duty.

“We are reforming the rules so the men and women protecting our country are not unfairly disadvantaged,” Mr Roozendaal said.

“Revising the residency provision in the First Home Owners Grant will support service men and women doing their job and gives them 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.

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