



Legacy Australia Council
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MEDIA RELEASE

LEGACY STANDS READY FOR FAMILY OF AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN

3 February 2011

Legacy extends deepest sympathy to the fiancé, family, the friends, and colleagues of Corporal Richard Atkinson, 22, who was killed in action when he was struck by an IED. The soldier, originally from Hobart, was on his first deployment to Afghanistan with the Darwin-based 1st Combat Engineer Regiment.

Legacy's thoughts also extend to the family of a second soldier, of the same regiment who was seriously wounded in the same incident.

Legacy is dedicated to the welfare of widows and dependents of our Defence Force personnel killed in war, peacekeeping or hazardous service, or who have died subsequently.

"Legacy stands ready to support the families of Australia's 3,000 men and women currently deployed on operations around the globe to ensure they receive assistance and care that is needed at such times, and maintains a life-long commitment to serving Defence families as required" says Legacy Australia Chairman, John Pepperdine.

"Legacy's thoughts are with the families of these soldiers and their mates during this very difficult time."

The death of a soldier is a reminder of the extremely stressful environments endured by our Defence Force personnel. Legacy remembers those personnel who are deployed in hazardous duty and to this end remains dedicated in taking the steps necessary to help ease the ongoing burden Defence families face should tragedy occur.

"Tens of thousands of ADF personnel have been deployed to Afghanistan over recent years, and Australia's continuing commitment in the Middle East and various peace-keeping operations sees a growing demand for Legacy's services well into the future.

Legacy assists more than 100,000 widows and 1,900 children and people with a disability across Australia. We provide tailored welfare support for individual needs which includes assistance with medical support, financial assistance, advocacy and education", John Pepperdine said.

Legacy relies on the financial support of the community. The public are encouraged to donate using your credit card, a cheque, money order or cash.

A Legacy spokesperson is available for media comment.

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