

Deployed Soldiers Welfare Assn GPO Box 1029 BRISBANE QLD 4001

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Dear Principal

Australia's defence force is being used more and more on peacekeeping, humanitarian and defence missions overseas. Whatever our view might be on these missions, we should all recognise the difficulties and perils faced by the young Australian servicemen and women who live and work in dangerous locations far from our shores.

Then there are those other heroes, the families who suffer in silence, and sometimes in fear, when loved ones are away. Perhaps one or more of your students knows or is from such a family.

Wounded Heroes charitable programs support the families of our service personnel, the wounded amongst them and their families. This support is designed to alleviate hardship in the absence of a loved one on operations overseas, and assist the wounded and their families move on with their lives on return to Australia. Our three programs fill specific needs:

- Adaptive support to the wounded. Other than death, the most serious human impact of operational deployments is the permanent physical and psychological wounds suffered by service personnel, and their spouses and children. Recovery and preparation for the future can take years, and Wounded Heroes will provide injured personnel with ongoing support for their physical or psychological wounds.
- Family support. When troops deploy, there are bills to pay, children to care for, emergencies, responsibilities and pressures that may suddenly overtake a family. Wounded Heroes provides assistance in order to reduce stress on the family and the deployed person. Such support when it is needed can totally shift the atmosphere for a military family functioning under the stress and fear of operations.
- Social and community interaction. Experience has shown that families survive deployments better with a network of friends, have regular outside contact and know that there is support available when they need it. Wounded Heroes provides social gatherings where spouses and children can meet, establish friendship groups, and talk through common issues of concern.

Our servicemen and women should get the best; they give more, risk more and sacrifice more, so it is only right that that they receive this needed support, and we pledge to do this with passion and commitment.

We are proud of the school stationary program as a fundraiser and a method for spreading the word that our Australian heroes continue to serve on our behalf. This high quality, unique and environmentally sustainable range of stationary is one we commend to you.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Shapcott Chairman