



GOVERNMENT HOUSE

MEDIA RELEASE

3 June 2015

HIS HONOUR THE HONOURABLE JOHN HARDY OAM ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

HUMANITARIAN OVERSEAS SERVICE MEDAL PRESENTATION THURSDAY 4 JUNE AT 5.30PM

His Honour the Honourable John Hardy OAM, Administrator of the Northern Territory, will present 10 of the 13 Territorians deployed by the Australian Government to Pakistan in 2010, with a **Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal**.

The Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal was established under the Australian Honours System in 1999 to recognise humanitarian service provided in response to civil unrest overseas, and was expanded in 2005 to include responses to national disasters.

The doctors, nurses and paramedics from the **National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre** (NCCTRC) were deployed as part of **Operation Pakistan Assist II in August 2010**, following the devastating floods in that country.

Officially, 1700 people were killed, 1.9 million houses destroyed and 21 million people affected by the flash flooding following heavy rains in northern Pakistan in July 2010.

Operation Pakistan Assist II was a significant event for the NCCTRC.

It was the first deployment of an Australian Medical Assistance Team and was coordinated by the NCCTRC. It was also the first civil-military deployment of a medical taskforce by the Australian Government.

The team arrived in the rural township of Kot Addu in the Punjab province on 25 August 2010 and remained embedded for 10 weeks, treating more than 11,000 patients.

It has since been recognised internationally that this was the most successful Australian deployment of a combined civil-military taskforce in response to a humanitarian disaster.

A ceremony conducted by the Administrator of the Northern Territory, for 10 attending recipients, will take place at **Government House** on **Thursday 4 June 2015, commencing promptly at 5.30 pm.**

Medal recipients:

- Ms Marlene Ball
- Ms Megan Chandler
- Dr Tim Gray
- Mr Mark Haste
- Dr Charlotte Heldreich
- Ms Sharon Johnson
- Dr Ruth Lennox (*unable to attend*)
- Dr Ian Norton (*on secondment to the World Health Organisation*)
- Ms Julie Rattenbury (*unable to attend*)
- Ms Natasha Roberts
- Mrs Ronnie Taylor
- Mrs Abigail Trewin
- Mrs Anne Weir

The National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre was established following the 2002 Bali bombings and remains a key element of the Australian Government's disaster response.

Note to Media

Media are invited to attend. If you are interested in sending a journalist, please contact **Lucy Goodacre on 8999 5563**. It is essential that prior arrangements are made so that we may accommodate your staff in our planning.