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AMENDMENT OF *HUMANITARIAN OVERSEAS SERVICE MEDAL (IRAQ) DECLARATION 2004* TO EXTEND TO SPECIFIED COMMERCIAL CONTRACTORS

Recommendation(s) - that you:

1. Sign the letter to the Governor-General, recommending that she makes a declaration under the *Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal Regulations 2011*, extending eligibility for the 'Iraq' clasp to the medal, to specified commercial contractors (Attachment A).

Signed / Not Signed

2. Sign the proposed Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (Iraq) Declaration 2011 (Attachment B).

Signed / Not Signed

Jan McLucas

Date:

Purpose: To seek the Governor-General's agreement to extend eligibility for the 'Iraq' clasp to the medal to specified commercial contractors engaged by AusAID to provide essential security services in support of humanitarian operations in Iraq.

Key Points:

1. The *Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (Iraq) Declaration 2004* was made by the Governor-General for the humanitarian operation that commenced on 20 March 2003 arising out of the civil unrest in Iraq following the commencement on 20 March 2003 of operation Iraqi Freedom carried out in Iraq by the United States led coalition forces.
2. The declaration specified that the following not-for-profit organisations were eligible for the clasp: the Australian Red Cross, CARE Australia, World Vision Australia, and the Australian contingents to the International Committee of the Red Cross, to United Nations organisations and to the rehabilitation program in Iraq carried out by the Coalition Provisional Authority.
3. The declaration specified that for-profit organisations and their employees were not eligible for the clasp.
4. The Director-General of AusAID has written in support of an application for the medal by an employee of Control Risk Group, an organisation engaged by AusAID to provide essential security services in support of humanitarian operations in Iraq, stating that Control Risk Group was a 'critical enabler' and that AusAID's work in Iraq would not have been possible without the Group's services (Attachment C).
5. We consider a case exists for extending eligibility for the 'Iraq' clasp to the medal to employees of Control Risk Group engaged by AusAID in that context (AusAID advises approximately 35 individuals) and we note that applicants for the medal will need to provide documentary evidence from AusAID in support of their applications.

Background

6. Generally speaking, the Australian Government has not recommended for-profit organisations for recognition through the medal, on the grounds that the organisations, in comparison with not-for-profit organisations, are not principally humanitarian organisations.
7. An exception to that general rule was made under the *Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami and other Natural Disaster Relief) Regulations 2005* under which General Electric was declared an eligible organisation on the basis that though the organisation was a for-profit organisation, the organisation's operations in response to the Indian Ocean tsunami were for the purpose of 'minimising the distress suffered by people affected by the tsunami and sustaining their life and dignity' and were not-for-profit.
8. The case establishes a precedent for extending eligibility to commercial contractors in cases in which the contractors are engaged in Australian humanitarian operations or Australian contingents to international organisations' humanitarian operations.

PM&C
Secretary
Ms Lynch
Mr Rush
Mr Hazlehurst
Mr Angus

To: Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (for decision by 30 November 2011)

**AMENDMENT OF HUMANITARIAN OVERSEAS SERVICE MEDAL (IRAQ) DECLARATION 2004
TO EXTEND TO SPECIFIED COMMERCIAL CONTRACTORS**

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File:

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Kate Lundy

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 - a. The declaration specified that the following not-for-profit organisations were eligible for the clasp: the Australian Red Cross, CARE Australia, World Vision Australia, and the Australian contingents to the International Committee of the Red Cross, to United Nations organisations and to the rehabilitation program in Iraq carried out by the Coalition Provisional Authority.
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Peter Rush
Assistant Secretary
Awards and Culture
October 2011

Policy Officer: Alice Ling
Phone no: 6271 5602
Consultation: AusAID

ATTACHMENTS

1. Letter to the Governor-General
2. Proposed Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (Iraq) Declaration 2011
3. Letter from Director-General of AusAID