



**ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS
MEMBER FOR PERTH
The Hon Patrick Gorman MP**

Reference: MC25-096465

Mr Gordon Lowe
President
Ops Room Association of Australia Inc.
Unit 11, 26-28 High Street
CARLTON NSW 2218

Dear Mr Lowe

Thank you for your letter dated 21 July 2025 to the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister, seeking an amendment to the National Emergency Medal (NEM) or the creation of a new medal for Cyclone Tracey. The Prime Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf as the Minister with responsibility for the Australian honours and awards system.

I would like to acknowledge my correspondence to you dated 9 January 2025 regarding recognition for Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel following their response to Cyclone Tracey. I have attached a copy of my response (MC24-164089 refers) for your records.

As you are aware, the *National Emergency Medal Regulations 2011* (NEM Regulations), set out that an emergency event must have occurred within the previous three years to be considered for a decision on whether to declare the event a nationally-significant emergency. As Cyclone Tracy occurred in 1974, the National Emergency Medal Committee, who is independent of government, has no authority to consider it as a nationally-significant emergency.

As noted in my earlier response, the NEM was created in 2011 to have limited retrospectivity, particularly given consistent feedback from jurisdictions that the burden of providing historical information for personnel, including researching and sourcing it (if it still exists), makes retrospectivity unfeasible.

I note your request regarding the creation of a new medal for Cyclone Tracy. However, the creation of a new medal would still involve similar considerations to seeking retrospective application of the NEM. That is, the availability of records and resource implications in determining the details of historical events and verifying eligible service would remain a key issue for the first responder agencies and not-for-profit organisations that are generally involved in such events.