



Stuart Robert MP

Federal Member for Fadden

Shadow Minister for Defence Science, Technology and Personnel

****MEDIA RELEASE****

30 May 2011

DEATH OF TWO AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS IN AFGHANISTAN

Today I extend my heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of the two Australian soldiers who were tragically killed in Afghanistan overnight.

I also wish to extend my thoughts and prayers to the five injured soldiers that were on board the Australian CH-47 Chinook helicopter that crashed near Tarin Kowt.

Today's sad news of the death of a 25 year old Lance Corporal who was shot and killed by an Afghan National Army soldier and of a 27 year old Army Lieutenant who was piloting the Chinook helicopter when it crashed will surely touch each and every Australian; and in so doing all our thoughts are with the family and friends of those courageous and selfless soldiers.

These deaths, so soon after the loss of Sergeant Brett Wood only a few days ago, may test our resolve in the short term as we grieve for their loss, but it will never break our commitment to completing our mission.

As the fighting season again ramps up, I encourage all Australians to mirror the commitment of our troops and support them in their mission in Afghanistan.

The support we can offer to them transcends distance; and for our troops to know that their fellow country men and women have them in their hearts will surely keep them buoyant through the most difficult of times.

While today we collectively grieve for the loss of two fine Australian soldiers, we shall remain eternally grateful for their sacrifice.

Media enquiries: Richard Briedis – 0401 056 054