**MEDIA RELEASE 2 December 2021**

**Supporting Solomon Islands**

Following a formal request from the Solomon Islands Government under our Bilateral Security Treaty for assistance with the provision of safety and security, Australia has responded quickly and decisively to support the Solomon Islands as part of a Pacific effort including Papua New Guinea, Fiji and New Zealand.

As of 2 December, Australia has deployed 165 personnel, including 99 from the Australian Defence Force, 58 from the Australian Federal Police and eight from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The Royal Australian Air Force has sent nine flights to Honiara since 25 November and the Royal Australian Navy vessel HMAS Armidale has been deployed to support maritime security.

COVID-19 protocols are front of mind having faced the pandemic with our Pacific family. All Australian personnel are double vaccinated and produced a negative COVID-19 result before arriving in Honiara. All personnel will wear masks in public areas and indoors and are being tested every 48 hours for 14 days.

Australia is working closely with the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force, alongside Papua New Guinea, Fiji and New Zealand personnel, as part of our Pacific family.

Solomon Islands is a close friend, neighbour and partner of Australia. Our mission is strictly impartial, and Australia will not intervene in the internal affairs of Solomon Islands.

The Australian High Commission in Honiara remains operational. Australians in Solomon Islands in need of assistance should contact the High Commission or DFAT’s Consular Emergency Centre on +61 2 6261 3305 and monitor [smartraveller.gov.au.](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.smartraveller.gov.au%2F&data=04%7C01%7CKevin.Playford%40dfat.gov.au%7C412e95c3d0ec4ead4d4b08d9b567bec3%7C9b7f23b30e8347a58a40ffa8a6fea536%7C0%7C0%7C637740279449624815%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=RQF%2B4j2SwKUNyV%2B3XKUDMOUgICMtRrziKFJ9HtN6ABQ%3D&reserved=0)

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