

# ARE AUSTRALIA'S PEACEKEEPERS RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS?



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## Are Peacekeepers Responsible Citizens

It is disappointing that when asked most people would not know what a peacekeeper is. The United Nations definition of peacekeeping is 'ways to help countries torn by conflict create conditions of sustainable peace'. The peacekeeper is a person that partakes in this role.

The specific definition given to a peacekeeper 'is to monitor and observe the peace processes in post conflict areas and to assist ex-combatants in implementing peace agreements that may have to be signed'.

Basically this means that a peacekeepers role is to assist people in places that have experienced conflict recently, also to help with peace agreements within those areas. The peacekeeper, whom was interviewed, was Trooper Benjamin J. Anderson. Mr. Anderson just returned from a peace keeping operation over seas in Afghanistan. He was asked what he thinks a peace keeper is. His response was "I am there to help the Afghanistan citizens rebuild".

Lance Trooper Nicholas Christopher Boye was also interviewed in order to gain a wider perspective of what a Peacekeeper's views are. Up until now, he served as a peace keeper in Afghanistan Mr. Boye helped with the reconstruction and to mentor the people of Afghanistan, in the province he was based in. Lance trooper Boye says "...a peace keeper provides a presence to aid the stabilisation in a country that is unstable"

The peacekeepers play an important role in the regions of conflict, that they travel to and the impact they have in the community they aid and are clearly visible to the people. Some of the things like the ability for women and children to be able to express themselves more freely and have access to basic services such as health care, medical services and clean water are due to the presence of the peacekeepers and their help in those communities.

The peacekeepers uphold values such as courage, initiative, teamwork; compassion as well as honour and intuition. These values are what the peacekeepers try to uphold when they are over seas and they take pride in upholding these values, to the best of their abilities. The activities that the peacekeepers have to perform while overseas do definitely demonstrate values that we all should try to strive for. If the world were to uphold these values then that may better us all for the future years still to come.

A citizen is a member of a state or nation and who owes allegiance to its government and is entitled to its protection. In many third world countries this is not the case. The citizens are not being protected as well as they should be. Australia is one of the countries that both the allegiance of its citizens and the ability to protect them is definably recognised.

It is the peacekeepers of Australia and other involved nations that help promote this. They are very responsible citizens and they show outstanding values within the communities that they assist.

Peacekeepers are renowned for striving to achieve and they are responsible citizens of Australia. They uphold the Australian values that so many of us want to endorse. The peacekeepers of Australian are courageous and honourable and they are the perfect example of an Australian citizen. Their work overseas demonstrates that they definitely have known what it means to be a citizen of Australia. To them it means that they can hold their heads high and say that they are from Australia. There are also impacts on the family members of the peacekeepers when they are over seas. While they are proud of their child, siblings or spouses they also have to put up with the disruption of routine and uncertainty of their family member, who is peacekeepers, safety.

Peacekeepers don't just give aid to countries that have been afflicted by war, and they don't put themselves in positions where they are in danger because they want the merit or the praise for doing so. They do what they have to because they believe it is the right thing to do. As long as the people of Australia appreciate and know what the peace keepers are doing and have done then the people will appreciate and commemorate those that put their lives on the line to help others. When something they know as great as peacekeeping is happening by their fellow citizens how can they just ignore that it will be more widely commemorated the more widely it is know about.

### **Word count: 764**

Interview notes and quotes from Lance Trooper Nicholas Christopher Boye and Trooper Benjamin J. Anderson.

### **Bibliography:**

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