

Eng. Dr Palitha Kuruppuarachchi honoured with Public Service Medal on Queen's Birthday 2019

Eng. Dr Palitha Ranjith Kuruppuarachchi was awarded the Public Service Medal (PSM) on 10th June 2019 for his outstanding public service to the New South Wales Police Force, particularly to network communications.

Following is the media announcement:

Dr Kuruppuarachchi has made significant contributions to both the NSW Police Force and community of NSW throughout his 27 years of service. He provides outstanding engineering leadership in support of a team of more than 100 technicians, tasked with maintaining the largest radio network of its kind in the southern hemisphere, which is relied on by more than 16,500 front line police.

His career has focused on the development of a mission critical grade secure digital radio network. He is seen as the principal architect of the robust radio network across three major programs. The DIRAD program saw the digitalisation and encryption of radio communications in the Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong regions and he led the final four years of the Radio Communications Maintenance Program, requiring the navigation of complex challenges.

He has also overseen the Police Communications Assurance Program which saw the replacement of portable and mobile (vehicle) radios across all digital areas. This work has allowed the NSW Police Force to operate across the State with secure and reliable communications. His contributions have been significant to community and officer safety across the State and ensure that the right policing services are delivered to the community as needed. Other areas of government regularly call upon him for considered and reliable advice on the radio communications industry. Dr Kuruppuarachchi has served the New South Wales Police Force and the community of New South Wales with distinction.



Eng. Dr Palitha Kuruppuarachchi is currently a Program Manager in the NSW Police Force where he plays a significant role in the development and maintenance of the organisations mission critical radio network relied on by more than 16,500 frontline police for in-field communications.

Prior to migrating to Australia in September 1991, he was a Communications Engineer with the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB). He held various positions in the CEB for 10 years from May 1981 to September 1991, in particular he gained valuable experience in project management during the period he was assigned to the Mahaweli Hydro Power Complex.

Since joining the NSW Police Force in November 1991, being the Manager, Radio Engineering Services and/or Program Manager, he has made a significant contribution to both the NSW Police Force and community of NSW throughout his 28 of service. He is a key player in delivering successful programs to enhance NSW Police Force's operational capabilities; among the delivered programs are: County Capital Works Program (CCWP), Digital Radio Program (DIRAD), Radio Communications Maintenance Program (RCMP) and Greater Metro

Areas Terminal Refresh Program (GMATR). Currently, he is directing the Police Communications Assurance Program (PCAP) of the NSW Police Force. He has contributed towards the development of a national policy framework for interoperable radio communications for Public Safety.

He holds a Doctor of Technology, Master's degree in business and technology, Master's degree in computer science, and a Bachelor's degree in electronic and telecommunication engineering. He has wide experience in formulating strategies, converting strategies into programs/projects and managing programs/projects throughout the life cycle.

In addition to his work within the NSW Police Force, he has also published many papers integrating the disciplines of leadership, innovation, change management and project management in international journals.