

Rear Admiral Sonya Bennett AM

MBBS FRACGP MPHTM FAFPHM GAICD

Commander Joint Health and Surgeon General Australian Defence Force



Rear Admiral (RADM) Bennett commenced as Commander Joint Health (CJHLTH) and Surgeon General Australian Defence Force (SGADF) on 1 December 2023. RADM Bennett is a practicing Public Health Physician and is a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine. RADM Bennett is a current member of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR) Berghofer Council.

RADM Bennett was previously Deputy Chief Medical Officer in the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care and Director General Navy Health Reserves. In addition RADM Bennett has previously worked in Queensland Health as Deputy Health Officer, a member of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation, (ATAGI), Chair of the Communicable Disease Network of Australia (CDNA), and member of the Australian Health Protection Principle Committee (AHPPC).

As a medical officer in the Australian Defence Force, RADM Bennett served full-time with the Royal Australian Navy from 1994 to 2009. Postings during this period include HMAS PLATYPUS as Submarine Squadron Medical Officer, Deputy Medical Officer in Charge at Balmoral Naval Hospital, sea postings on HMAS SUCCESS, the Army Malaria Institute and Centre for Military and Veterans Health as the Research Manager/Chief of Operations.

Following transition to the part-time force in 2009, RADM Bennett has deployed to Pacific Partnership 2015 on the USNS Mercy as a public health physician as well as continuing in the RAN as a member of the Independent Seaworthiness Management Review panel.

RADM Bennett's broad technical expertise and leadership in public health was recognised in the 2023 Australia Day awards where she was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) General Division.