



17 March 2020

Guy Barnett, Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Commemorating ANZAC Day

The Tasmanian majority Liberal Government is committed to supporting Tasmania's veterans and ex-serving personnel, and honouring the sacrifice of our servicemen and women.

We understand the significance of RSL Tasmania's decision to cancel all RSL conducted ANZAC Day commemorative services in Tasmania, in light of concerns for the safety and wellbeing of the community at large and also for RSL members.

Accordingly the Tasmanian Government is considering other alternatives to commemorate ANZAC day this year and has approached RSL Tasmania to discuss these options.

There are several options to consider including potentially televising or live streaming one or more crowd free Tasmanian ANZAC ceremonies, with only a limited number of key representatives present. This could allow the community to participate and show their respect, while ensuring public health and safety.

In addition, I encourage all Tasmanians to observe two minutes silence on 25 April at 11am and reflect upon the price of freedom, and recognise the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women.

2020 marks the 105th anniversary of the start of the Gallipoli campaign and the birth of the ANZAC legend, highlighting our national values of mateship, bravery and sacrifice.

Around 420,000 Australians enlisted in World War One, including 15,484 from Tasmania, of whom nearly 3,000 were killed.

A further 40,000 Australians were killed on active service in World War Two and in subsequent conflicts in Korea, Malaya, Vietnam and the Middle East.

Tasmanians were among the first to land in Gallipoli in 1915, and have been active in Australia's military operations in following conflicts.

Today more than 10,500 war veterans and ex-service personnel live in Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Government will continue to support our veterans and ex-serving personnel and commemorate their service.