



Speech by

**Mr N. ROBERTS**

**MEMBER FOR NUDGE**

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Hansard 25 November 1999

### **ANZAC DAY AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr ROBERTS** (Nudgee—ALP) (12.35 p.m.): I just want to take a brief moment to pay tribute to the workers in some of my local sub-branches. A number of them have already been mentioned today—in fact, all of them have.

**Mr Santoro:** Are you going to say nice things about me, too?

**Mr ROBERTS:** I acknowledge that the member for Clayfield has been a strong supporter of his local sub-branches. In fact, we support jointly the Nundah/Northgate sub-branch. The member has already referred to the work of Max Shadlow and others who perform a tremendous amount of good work in the community. As the member for Clayfield will remember, David Prince, who recently passed away, did a tremendous amount of work for the sub-branch in the Nundah/Northgate community, and that work is being ably carried out by Max and, indeed, his wife, Faye.

**Mr Santoro:** And Ted Tremain.

**Mr ROBERTS:** Ted Tremain also made a tremendous contribution. I know his wife, Jean, very well.

In terms of the Banyo sub-branch, it was very sad recently to see the passing of Ernie Jones, who was one of the mainstays of that sub-branch. We have people such as Ron Virgen, who have picked up the mantle now and are making tremendous contributions to the local community, including a very strong involvement with local schools. One of the things which Ernie was tremendously proud of was his efforts in securing a new memorial for Banyo. There was a very old memorial there. He was significantly involved in securing the funding through the gaming machine grant and also through the Federal Government. The sub-branch itself also made significant contributions to upgrading the Banyo memorial, and it now stands as a very fine reminder of the sacrifices that many servicemen and women have made to our community.

I have many friends in my local sub-branches and I am very pleased, as I have said, to give recognition to a number of them here today. Of course, there are many others—too many to mention. In terms of the Geebung/Zillmere sub-branch, we have Smoky Dawson, who is larger than life in that area. He makes a tremendous contribution not only to the sub-branch but also to the local community. The Geebung/Zillmere sub-branch is in a better financial position due to its association with a larger club. It makes a significant contribution to a lot of community organisations and I want to recognise and thank it for that.

The other thing that I think goes relatively unnoticed in the community is the tremendous amount of welfare work undertaken by the sub-branches. I know many of the individuals who go around to a lot of the ex-servicemen and women, providing emotional and any other kind of support necessary in times of need. It is really that behind-the-scenes work which takes up the bulk of the time of a lot of RSL sub-branch members. I think they should be commended for the great contributions that they are making to our communities.

The Community Link program is something which has recently developed. I am pleased to have had some limited involvement with that myself. On behalf of my daughters I have applied for Community Link recognition for a couple of my relatives. I think that a lot of the sub-branches

throughout Queensland are making good, strong links with local schools to involve young people in remembering the sacrifices that were made by so many of our servicemen and women and also to allow them an opportunity to directly involve themselves in the remembrance services on Anzac Day and, of course, Remembrance Day.

In terms of Anzac Day services, in common with all members in this place, I make an effort to attend as many as possible. Five take place within my electorate on Anzac Day. Due to time constraints, I am able to attend only four on Anzac Day. The pleasing thing about those services is that, as many members have indicated, there is a growing level of support for them. In fact, I feel that in the last few years, particularly since the former Federal Government's Australia Remembers program, the numbers at some of the services that I have been attending have doubled.

**Mr Santoro** interjected.

**Mr ROBERTS:** Con Sciacca did do a very good job. It was a great contribution and recognition by the Federal Government for our servicemen and women.

In concluding, I again congratulate all of the people involved in my local sub-branches for the excellent work and contributions that they make to our local communities, and I assure them of my ongoing support. I commend the Bill to the House.

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