



Speech by

**Hon. P. BRADDY**

**MEMBER FOR KEDRON**

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Hansard 29 April 1999

**ANZAC DAY AMENDMENT BILL**

**Hon. P. J. BRADDY** (Kedron—ALP) (Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations) (11.38 a.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

It is with great pleasure that I introduce to the House this amendment to the Anzac Day Act 1995. The objective of the amendment Bill is to amend the Anzac Day Act to introduce important new changes to the funding arrangements for the Anzac Day Trust Fund. The Anzac Day Act provides for the operation of the Anzac Day Trust. The trust administers the Anzac Day Trust Fund, which collects and disburses funds for the general welfare of ex-service people, their dependants and related associations.

The major source of funding for the Anzac Day Trust Fund comes from Treasury by way of the allocation of proportions of various taxes collected each year. These allocations derive from general licences under the Liquor Act 1992—liquor licence fees—and taxes in relation to race betting on Anzac Day. Recent changes to taxation laws—that is, the abolition of State liquor licence fees—have meant that these funding provisions are no longer appropriate and, indeed, future funding to the trust could be detrimentally affected. Additionally, past funding has varied markedly from year to year.

The day on which Anzac Day fell and even weather conditions could affect race day crowd numbers and subsequent financial returns to the trust. Also, the provisions are complex and difficult to administer. Accordingly, it has been necessary to revise the legislative arrangements to ensure that the trust receives appropriate funding in order to continue its important role within our community.

It has been determined that the appropriate alternative funding should be by way of an annual grant from Treasury to replace the existing arrangements. This would also avoid the administrative complexity with the current system and introduce an element of certainty of funding as opposed to the variability of the past. The grant has been calculated on an average of past funding in current dollar terms, with the initial grant being \$795,000 for the 1998-99 financial year. The grant will be indexed by the CPI annually thereafter.

Importantly, the new grant arrangements have been approved and welcomed by the board of trustees of the Anzac Day Trust. These trustees represent organisations such as the RSL, Legacy and all other registered or incorporated organisations or associations of ex-service people. The changes will not affect the situation whereby voluntary donations can be made to the trust, especially from the businesses and activities permitted to operate on Anzac Day.

In closing, I am happy to say that these changes confirm the Government's recognition and commitment to the Anzac Day tradition and the continued operation of the important activities of the Anzac Day Trust. I commend the Bill to the House.

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