



Speech by

Hon. P. BRADDY

MEMBER FOR KEDRON

Hansard 25 November 1999

ANZAC DAY AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. P. J. BRADDY (Kedron—ALP) (Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations) (12.47 p.m.), in reply: I thank the Opposition for its official support for the Anzac Day Amendment Bill. I thank all Opposition members and Independents in the House who have indicated their support for the legislation and for the continuation of the Anzac Day Trust. I take this opportunity to reiterate our Government's position in recognising and supporting the activities of the trust in its role of providing assistance to ex-service persons, their dependants and related organisations. In this regard, I certainly appreciate the commitment and contribution made by the individual members of the trust.

I now turn to the issues raised in the debate. The member for Clayfield talked about the amount being given to the trust. I accept his comments in the good spirit in which they were given. In addition to what I said in my second-reading speech, the \$795,000 grant is not only an average over past years; it is actually an average over the last six years. The amount we have determined is in fact greater than the amount received in the last two years. So it is a sensible, fair and generous amount. The trustees fully support the level of funding and the legislation in particular. In relation to the issue of the RSL Act, which the member for Clayfield also raised, I indicate to him that I will refer his comments in Hansard to my colleague Judy Spence, the Minister for Fair Trading, who is the relevant Minister for that particular legislation.

I turn to the comments of the member for Toowoomba North. In relation to donations, my department in fact promotes voluntary contributions from business each year and keeps that before people in Queensland, the business community in particular. It is heartening to know that in 1999 there was a marked increase in donations to the trust.

The new arrangements brought about by this Bill in providing an element of certainty of funding from the State will certainly assist greatly in the continuation of the Anzac Day Trust's valued role in the Queensland community. It is significant that we do this with the full support of the Parliament of Queensland, and I thank members for their support.
