




Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Everton Electorate, Defence Force

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (2.51 pm): Today I rise to speak about the defence personnel who live in my electorate. With Anzac Day looming, it is very appropriate that we recognise the fantastic contribution that the military makes to the wellbeing and the safety of our nation. My electorate of Everton has a very large percentage of families who are connected with the military because Enoggera Army barracks is nearby and the Gaythorne RSL is on the border of my electorate and the Premier's electorate. Therefore, the Everton electorate has quite a high concentration of defence personnel families. On the weekend it was great to be at the Gallipoli Barracks open day at Enoggera where, for the first time since September 11, the barracks were open to thousands and thousands of people. People could come to see Army vehicles and services and parachuters. It was a great open day. It was great to be there with the Premier to see thousands of people enjoy this free day where families could come along, and the kids enjoyed themselves. There were simulation exercises and it was a great advertisement for the military of our country.

Across the road from the Gaythorne RSL is the Wests Mitchelton Rugby League Football Club, which is a very famous club. It also recognises the contribution that defence personnel make to our country in that this weekend it is holding a defence appreciation weekend. There will be footy games played all day on Sunday and there will be an expo by the Army, which will bring some of its vehicles to show the kids. That should be a great day. On Friday night it is holding a defence appreciation dinner and the guest speakers at that event will be General Peter Cosgrove, who is of course very well known and the hero of East Timor. I look forward to hearing him speak. As well, a West Mitchie old boy great, John Ribot, will be a guest speaker. John Ribot played for West Mitchie, Wests, Manly as well as Western Sydney.

Mr Rickuss: Didn't he play for France, too?

Mr MANDER: No. He had a French name, but he did not play for France. He had great judgement in that he selected me to be a superleague referee many years ago. This is going to be a great night. It is a charity night. The funds will be going to the Kids of Kokoda and Wounded Heroes Australia. I congratulate David Weale on that initiative.