Speech By

Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Remembrance Day

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.05 pm): This morning I attended the state RSL Remembrance Day ceremony at Anzac Square along with the Leader of the Opposition. With Queenslanders across the state we marked in silence the moment when, after more than four years of relentless warfare, the guns of the western front fell silent 97 years ago. This moment in time represents the German call for an armistice which led to their acceptance of an unconditional surrender. Armistice Day, as it was then known, justifiably attained a special significance in the years following the First World War. After the end of the Second World War, Australia recognised the need to commemorate the service and sacrifice of all war dead and changed the name to Remembrance Day.

Since 1899 over one million Australians have served in numerous wars and conflicts, and more than 30,000 have served in over 50 peacekeeping operations. The impact has been significant, with over 101,000 Australian lives lost—over 101,000 men and women who were someone's brother, someone's mother, someone's friend. Alongside this loss we also give thought to over 900,000 men and women who have returned from active service. They walk amongst us in our everyday lives, often carrying a heavy burden from their extraordinary experiences in operations—a weight that many struggle with as they transition back into civilian life.

On Remembrance Day I encourage all Queenslanders to remember all service men and women past and present, those who have returned and those who, sadly, did not. They each have a story—some big, some small—yet together these stories remain immensely significant in shaping our Australian identity. As we commemorate the centenary of the First World War between 2014-18, let us remember the events that have made us who we are so we may learn from history rather than repeat it. Lest we forget.