




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Anzac Day; George, Mr D

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.47 am): Monday, 25 April, Anzac Day 2016, marks the 100th anniversary of the inaugural Anzac Day services held in Queensland. Across our vast state, Queenslanders will gather at local memorials to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of men and women of the Australian Defence Force, both past and present. Last year, we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing. On behalf of Queensland, I wish to express my gratitude to all involved in delivering Anzac Day this year. I look forward to seeing the ongoing community spirit at services around Queensland and I encourage all Queenslanders to find their own way to commemorate our role in the First World War and the century of service that followed.

Recently the State Library of Queensland digitised the first minute book of the Anzac Day Commemoration Committee, which records the origins of the committee and its earliest meetings in 1916. The committee was formed on 10 January 1916 at a public meeting when local land agent Thomas Augustine Ryan put forward a recommendation to form a committee to explore ways of honouring the fallen soldiers of the Gallipoli campaign. The committee quickly devised a ceremonial day, to be held on 25 April 1916, which was the anniversary of the Gallipoli landing.

Queensland has a proud history of supporting our Defence Force. This year we also pay tribute to those Queenslanders who led the way in commemorating the sacrifices our diggers made. Every year since, Queenslanders have come together in towns and cities across our state to pay their respects. I commend the State Library for the efforts to ensure this rich part of Queensland's history has been protected and will be shared with all Queenslanders for generations to come.

I would also like to make special mention of veteran Dave George, who has joined us in the gallery today. Dave is here today as a guest of the member for Springwood, the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Mick de Brenni. Minister de Brenni met Dave earlier this year. When Dave sat down and spoke with the minister he had a message from him. He said, 'Mick, you need to do something for homeless veterans.'

Dave brought to the minister's attention that Queenslanders on two specific veterans disability pensions are narrowly ineligible for Queensland government housing schemes like bond loans and rental grants. Minister de Brenni was so concerned about Dave's story that he went straight to his department to look at ways to change the eligibility threshold for these veterans.

This is an important reform that allows us to deliver real outcomes for Queenslanders and honour our veterans at the same time. I take this opportunity to congratulate the minister for his efforts in this space and look forward to him speaking more about the reforms in the House this morning. I am proud to lead a government that recognises the contribution our veterans have made to our great state and our country. Lest we forget.