



Speech By  
**Jennifer Howard**


**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH**

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**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Armistice Centenary Public Art Project**

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.39 pm): Today I rise to speak about the Palaszczuk government's commitment to honouring the centenary of the Armistice and our work recognising the sacrifice our Queensland Anzac soldiers made in the First World War. Queensland's centenary of the Armistice program aims to engage all Queenslanders in this historic milestone to ensure our Anzac legacy lives on. One of the projects being done as part of the Armistice centenary is a public art installation marking the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice agreement. The public art installation will see Queenslanders from all over the state create at least 57,705 poppies to reflect the same number of Queensland soldiers who enlisted in the First World War. These handmade poppies will be placed inside eight acrylic letters which spell 'remember' and will stand at three metres high and 16 metres in length.

In my electorate in Ipswich I had the great pleasure of attending a poppy-making workshop at Blair State School and watched year 6 students make well over 1,000 poppies. They were incredibly dextrous. The workshop gave the students a great opportunity to learn about the history of the First World War and the Armistice and taught them about the symbolism of the poppy flower and why we wear it on 11 November every year. The workshop also gave students a sense that they were part of history and were part of something bigger than themselves. I want to take a moment to thank Blair State School and especially art teacher Megan Gaynor for organising the poppy-making workshop and for taking the time to engage the students in this important project. It means that Blair State School students can now see their own poppies in the installation travelling across Queensland commemorating the Armistice centenary.

From 6 October through to 11 November the Armistice centenary art installation will be on public display in Townsville, Mackay, Longreach, Bundaberg and South Bank. The workshops have had a strong community response, with a number of poppy-making workshops held at geographically diverse locations across Queensland such as Winton, Maryborough, Noosa, Mackay, Mount Isa, Yeppoon, Birdsville, Cairns, the Ekka—where over 11,000 poppies were made—and here in parliament, where we held a poppy-making workshop today. Over the next few weeks we will have more workshops in Charleville, Currumbin, Townsville and of course Toowoomba's Carnival of Flowers.

The response to the poppy making has been phenomenal and to date around 40,000 poppies have been returned. The Armistice centenary art installation shows that this is truly a piece of public art in every sense of the word involving the participation of ordinary Queenslanders across the state. This project would not be possible without them and I want to take a moment to thank the many Queenslanders who have contributed to this project to honour those Queenslanders who enlisted in the First World War. This is just one part of our government's proud commitment to honouring the Anzac legacy in Queensland.

We have restored the Shine of Remembrance, eternal flame and undercroft areas and have undertaken waterproofing, curation of memorials and plaques while improving access to Anzac Square. A new permanent Anzac Legacy Gallery and exhibition at Queensland Museum is being created to explore the impact of the First World War on Queensland and it will also provide a home for the First World War tank *Mephisto*, which will be a centrepiece of the gallery. Our Q Anzac 100 program brings our Anzac history to life with a range of events including exhibitions and educational programs.

As assistant minister for veterans' affairs, I wholly support the positive contribution our Premier and our Labor government are making to recognise the valued service of our veterans, past and present. We have made good on our election commitments such as establishing Oasis Townsville, a one-stop shop for welfare, support and employment transition services for ex-ADF personnel. We have also given DVA white card holders a 50 per cent discount on public transport across Queensland which means that an extra 19,000 veterans now have access to cheaper public transport. We have established a \$1.5 million grant program, delivered over three years, for veterans' groups and other organisations to provide support services for veterans and for the creation and upkeep of our monuments, memorials and other public sites.

We are committed to providing veterans with new employment opportunities, and in July this year the Public Service Commission launched a program to identify at least 100 public sector job opportunities for suitable ex-ADF personnel and veterans. I commend our Premier and minister for veterans' affairs on working to ensure the Queensland Labor government continues to engage with our veterans to support their needs and recognise their service. I am proud to be a part of a government committed to commemorating and preserving the Anzac legacy for future generations to come.