



Speech By  
**Bart Mellish**


**MEMBER FOR ASPLEY**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Anzac Day; Veterans**

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.38 pm): I acknowledge the contribution from the member for Hinchinbrook. He obviously has a genuine concern about veterans issues. Ahead of Anzac Day this Sunday I pay tribute to every RSL and veterans organisation hosting events. Honouring our veterans is something that should be done more than one or two days a year. Through our government's veterans' employment pathway program we are finding new careers for veterans in the Queensland Public Service as teachers, nurses, rangers, engineers, electricians and everything in between. The Queensland Public Service benefits greatly from the diverse experience and expertise of veterans, many of them supported by the veterans' employment pathway program to transition to careers beyond their Defence service.

Almost three years on from the launch of the program, over 700 veterans have joined the Public Service as teachers, nurses, engineers, electricians and in many other roles. The program has helped veterans identify skills that they can transfer easily to public sector roles, including teamwork, leadership and critical thinking. I have talked to a number of veterans over the last couple of weeks. Many of them have had much training and have many skills to offer. The difficulty is translating what those qualifications mean in the Defence context into what they mean in terms of state government roles.

Earlier this week I was very pleased to speak to a couple of veterans who currently work in the state government and who have come through very different pathways. Jen was with the Royal Australian Air Force where she specialised in supply and logistics for aircraft and specialist machinery. Now she works as a human resources adviser in the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Jen said that her defence service definitely developed her proficiency in understanding people, team culture and other skills that have helped immensely in her career since. Tom has been in the Queensland Ambulance Service for 10 years following his time in the Army, serving in Iraq in 2007 and 2008, and Afghanistan in 2010. Tom told me that while he was not a medic in the Defence Force his skill set equipped him well to make the transition into the Ambulance Service where he has worked for 10 years and continues to upskill and gain further qualifications.

Yesterday it was a real pleasure to represent the Premier at a ceremony to commemorate the 49 members of the Queensland parliament who served in World War II by adding their names to the honour board just outside this chamber. I thank honourable members who joined us for that event. I also thank the Speaker, his office and the Clerk for organising the event.

It was fantastic to hear the Premier announce this morning that our \$4 million Queensland Remembers grants program will open for applications in July. There is also extra funding for the Anzac Day Trust, which last year provided \$1.5 million to more than 200 organisations for welfare services for veterans and their families. I hope everyone can get out there and honour Anzac Day in their own way this Sunday. I look forward to doing so myself.