



Speech By  
**Bart Mellish**


**MEMBER FOR ASPLEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 November 2022

## ADJOURNMENT

### Remembrance Day; Queensland Veterans' Council; Premier's Anzac Prize

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (6.19 pm): I rise to speak about tomorrow's Remembrance Day commemorations and encourage Queenslanders to take part in commemorating the day. On 11 November 1918 at 11 am the guns on the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of the utter destruction of World War I. Tomorrow we will pause to remember those who have served, died or suffered in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. I will be paying my respects tomorrow in my capacity as Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs to the Premier at the RSL Queensland ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance at Anzac Square. As a result, I am unfortunately unable to attend my local services at Geebung RSL or Kedron Wavell, which I normally attend; however, I am happy to be represented at both events. I am sure these services will do justice to the day as they do every other year. I particularly thank the local students, who are often students from Aspley State High School and Craigslea State High School, for their spirited contribution to these services every year.

I encourage all Queenslanders who are able to attend their local Remembrance Day service in person tomorrow. For those who are unable to attend, Anzac Square, in conjunction with the State Library of Queensland, is enabling Queenslanders to pay their respects by placing a poppy and message online or by request at the Anzac Square and Memorial Galleries at Anzac Square. I am wearing my poppy today. Taking a moment to commemorate ensures those who made the ultimate sacrifice are never forgotten.

On another veteran related topic, this morning I was very pleased to hear the Premier announce the composition of the new Queensland Veterans' Council, which will be chaired by Quentin Masson DSM, CEO of Wandering Warriors. Other members of the council who will bring a wealth of experience include: Lorraine Hatton OAM, Miriam Dwyer, Christopher Hamilton, Rob Skoda and Nicole Hayes. The new Queensland Veterans' Council will shine a light on Queensland's veteran communities and improve their access to government. I really look forward to the council getting underway. It was an election commitment from the Premier, and I thank her and the member for Ipswich for her work in this space also.

Today it was my pleasure to meet Nooria Ahmadi, a Forest Lake State High School student from the Premier's electorate of Inala. Nooria was one of eight winners of the 2023 Premier's Anzac Prize. This is a fantastic opportunity for eight students to travel overseas to visit sites on the Western Front, including Villers-Bretonneux and Fromelles. They will get plenty of historical learnings over there and they will visit sites they would not get the opportunity to see otherwise. It will be an amazing opportunity for those students. It is a hotly contested prize. These eight students are the first ones to go overseas in three years because of COVID. I really look forward to joining the students on the trip. It will be a fantastic opportunity for them. Well done for their dedication to remembering those who have passed before them. It should be a really great day.