



Speech By  
**Hon. David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Anzac Day; Pope Francis**

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (10.09 am): Last Friday for Anzac Day, Queenslanders right across the state gathered to honour our veterans and service men and women for their incredible contributions to our country. It was a privilege to lay a wreath at the dawn service in Townsville and stand with thousands of Queenslanders at the Anzac Day Parade in Brisbane.

This year marked 110 years since the Anzacs landed at Gallipoli. On 25 April 1915, during the First World War, approximately 16,000 Australians and New Zealanders were part of the allied forces which landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey. By the next morning more than 2,000 troops had been killed or injured, but they would not be moved, they held on and there the Anzac spirit was established. In honour of the Australian diggers, eight high school students and two teacher chaperones attended the Anzac Day dawn service in Northern France. They were recipients of the 2025 Premier's Anzac Prize, established by Minister Langbroek back in 2013. The group visited sites where Australian soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice during World War I. The Anzac spirit is a defining part of our country's history and it is crucial it lives on in future generations.

Since Gallipoli, Australians have lived by the Anzac ethos of courage, mateship and loyalty. In the lead-up to Anzac Day, it was my pleasure to sit down with Roger North, a proud Queensland and a proud veteran. Roger applied to the Air Force on his 18th birthday in January 1940 just after World War II began. By December that year the Rockhampton teenager marched across the Story Bridge to depart for service. Roger is now 103 years old. More than 80 years have passed but he still remembers the events and the mates he served with like it was yesterday. His story is nothing short of miraculous—from receiving his wings in Ottawa to flying Hurricanes in Burma and surviving his aircraft being shot down 60 miles behind enemy lines. He received the Air Crew Europe Star, the Burma Star and the Pacific Star for his service. Roger's story is remarkable but his experience and his commitment to service are shared with veterans and service men and women right across the state.

Today, Queensland is home to the largest population of veterans in Australia. More than 163,000 current or former Australian Defence Force personnel live here, and a couple serve in this parliament. Last week, I was proud to announce our government's \$800,000 commitment to support veterans and first responders through the 4 Aussie Heroes foundation. The funding will help deliver a purpose-built facility in the Scenic Rim and has been well supported by the local member there. The state-of-the-art centre will become home to the foundation's Triumph over Trauma programs, which support former first responders and members of the Australian Defence Force. It is just one of the ways we are standing by our veterans, as they stood by us.

Last week the world was saddened by the news of the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis. Pope Francis had an impact on communities across the world, including right here in Queensland. He dedicated his life to being a voice for the voiceless. Pope Francis was known for his compassion, his

humility and his impact on the lives of millions through the values of faith, kindness and equality. His loss will be felt right across the world. I visited His Grace last Tuesday and attended mass along with the Leader of the Opposition on Thursday. On behalf of Queenslanders, I express my condolences to Catholics here and around the world. May Pope Francis rest in peace.