




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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ADJOURNMENT

Run Army; Gallipoli Barracks Open Day

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (9.27 pm): Run Army is a remarkable event that continues to bring Queenslanders together in support of our Australian Defence Force, our veterans and our emergency services personnel. I am proud to once again be taking part in Run Army 2026, joining thousands of Queenslanders and Australians who will step forward to not only participate but also show their respect and gratitude. Run Army has grown into one of the most significant community events on the annual calendar. This event is not just about physical endurance; it is about service, sacrifice and community. It provides an opportunity for people of all ages to come together whilst also raising vital funds for organisations that support our service men and women, veterans and emergency services personnel. Run Army 2026 has already raised more than \$109,000 from over 1,643 donations made by more than 12,600 individuals. This is an extraordinary achievement and a testament to the generosity of our community.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge and commend the leadership behind Run Army. In particular, I recognise the President of Run Army, Major General (Ret'd) Jake Ellwood DSC, AM, CSC, for his continued commitment to this event. I also acknowledge the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Simon Stuart AO, DSC, and the Deputy Chief of Army, Major General Chris Smith DSC, AM, CSC, for their strong and ongoing support. Their leadership ensures that Run Army continues to grow and thrive year after year.

As assistant minister to the Premier and Leader of the House, it was an honour to also recently represent the Premier and Minister for Veterans at the 2026 Gallipoli Barracks Open Day in Enoggera. This year's event held particular significance, as the Australian Army celebrates 125 years of service to our nation.

I was pleased to join Brigadier Jennifer Harris CSC, Commander of the 7th Brigade, and Regimental Sergeant Major Warrant Officer Class One Grant Gripske, together with a number of senior Australian Defence Force personnel as well as representatives from across all levels of government, for the official opening. The Gallipoli Barracks Open Day offered Queenslanders a chance to better understand the capability of our Australian Army and to gain a deeper appreciation of the work undertaken by those who serve. Importantly, it also highlighted the vital contribution of organisations such as Legacy Brisbane, Veterans Queensland and RSL Queensland, whose ongoing support for veterans and their families remains invaluable. Together, events like Run Army and the Gallipoli Barracks Open Day remind us of the enduring connection between our community and those who serve and of the responsibility we all share to honour and support them both now and into the future.