

Question on Notice
No. 231
Asked on 16 April 2013

Mr Watts asked the Minister for Education, Training and Employment (Mr Langbroek) -

QUESTION:

With reference to Anzac Day ceremonies for schools—

(1) What programs of events and activities will be available for all Queensland schools and how will these benefit the schools?

(2) What activities are planned for the Centenary of Anzac Day? –

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

The Queensland Government recognises that Anzac Day is owned by all Australians and it is important that the coming generations are involved now in the tradition of respecting the sacrifice of Australians who have served in theatres of conflict around the world.

(1) What programs of events and activities will be available for all Queensland schools and how will these benefit the schools?

Queensland schools have a long tradition of involvement in Anzac Day commemorations, especially within their local communities. Schools work closely with their local Returned Services League branches, local government, and representatives of the armed forces — to ensure this important legacy of respect for sacrifice endures for future generations.

At many schools around the state in the week leading up to Anzac Day, at locally organised school ceremonies: odes are played; wreaths laid; and students, staff, parents and members of the community share in reflecting on the importance of the sacrifices made by serving Australians.

Queensland school students also participate in regional and local community events which occur on or approaching Anzac Day. For example, students from South East Queensland were invited to participate in the 17th Students' Anzac Day Ceremony on Tuesday 23 April 2013 in Anzac Square, Brisbane. The event included a school choir singing the national anthem and students reciting poetry. Each school in attendance was invited to lay a wreath.

The events surrounding Australia's involvement in World War I are an important part of Australian history. Involvement in Anzac Day commemorations is an opportunity for teachers and students to focus on and explore key content within the Australian Curriculum for history.

The Anzac Day activities many school students participate in, also help to develop key aspects of literacy and, in more recent years, Information and Communication Technology through, for example, developing multimedia texts such as entries submitted for the Premier's Anzac Prize.

(2) What activities are planned for the Centenary of Anzac Day?

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring all students can participate in activities associated with the Centenary of Anzac Day.

The Anzac Centenary Queensland Government Working Group (ACQGWG) has been established to ensure a whole of Queensland Government approach in the coordination and commemoration of the Anzac Centenary from 2014–18. A forward program of events to commemorate the centenary is being developed.

The Premier's Anzac Prize is a Queensland Government initiative which will give 50 Queensland high school students a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience the Anzac tradition firsthand. As part of entry for the prize, students research and prepare a multimedia submission addressing how the Anzac tradition shaped our nation, why it is still important, and how future generations can continue to keep it alive.

Two delegations of five Queensland high school students will tour Gallipoli and the Western Front in 2013 and 2014, culminating in a major delegation of 40 students to attend 2015 Centenary commemorations.

The first five young Queenslanders to win the Premier's Anzac Prize departed on 21 April 2013 and returned on 5 May 2013. The group members were:

- Elijah Douglas, Year 11, Spinifex State College
- Jack Graham, Year 10, Noosa District State High School
- Emma Kearney, Year 12, St Andrew's Catholic College in Cairns
- Kristina Madden, Year 10, Christian Outreach College in Toowoomba
- Kyle Walsh, Year 10, Kirwan State High School in Townsville.

Members of the public were able to follow their journey on the Premier's Anzac Prize website at <http://education.qld.gov.au/students/grants/scholarships/anzac/2013-tour.html>.

Applications for the Premier's Anzac Prize 2014 will open on Monday 8 July 2013. Students in Years 8 to 11 are eligible to apply. Entries close Friday 20 September 2013. More information about the Premier's Anzac Prize can be found at <http://education.qld.gov.au/students/grants/scholarships/premiers-anzac-prize.html> website.

Queensland schools also participate in the Anzac Day Online Event, hosted through the Department of Education, Training and Employment's eLearning environment for schools. This year a number of online activities were offered for students, including live web-conferencing programs with veterans and defence force personnel.

A range of high quality digital learning resources are also available year-round for teachers and students, including interactive learning objects and primary source historical materials in the form of images, documents, moving images and audio recordings.

More information about the Anzac Day Online Event can be obtained from the event website at http://www.learningplace.com.au/default_community.asp?orgid=115&suborgid=687.