

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ANZAC DAY BILL 1994

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs,
The Honourable Con Sciacca MP)

OUTLINE AND PURPOSE

This bill will provide that the national day of commemoration to recognise and commemorate the contribution of all those who served Australia (including those who died) in time of war and in war-like conflicts is to be known as Anzac Day and observed on 25 April each year.

The purpose of the bill is to recognise, honour and remember the contribution of all those who have served Australia in time of war and in war-like conflicts in which Australia has been involved.

The decision to introduce this bill flows from concerns within the community about the future recognition and observance of Anzac Day. Those concerns were reflected by the Hon Clyde Holding in a motion which was debated in the House of Representatives on 6 June 1994. That motion called on the Government to declare Anzac Day as "Australia's National Day of Commemoration". This bill is in response to that motion.

The bill will set aside 25 April each year as a special day for Australians to contemplate and salute the spirit of Anzac and dedicate themselves to the same ideals of service, courage, commitment, endurance and mateship which sustained the Anzacs and all those who served after them.

This bill ensures that while 25 April will be the day of commemoration specifically to commemorate those who have served in war and war-like conflicts, the bill will in no way detract from or affect the celebration of Australia Day or other important events in the country's history.

Financial Impact

This bill has no financial impact.

NOTES ON CLAUSES

Clause 1 - Short title

Clause 1 provides for the Act to be cited as the *Anzac Day Act 1994*.

Clause 2 - Commencement

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the Act. The Act will commence on the day on which it receives the Royal Assent.

Clause 3 - Observance of Anzac Day as the national day of commemoration

Clause 4 provides that the national day of commemoration to recognise and commemorate the contribution of all those who served Australia (including those who died) in time of war and in war-like conflicts is to be known as Anzac Day and observed on 25 April each year.



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