

RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

VICTORIAN BRANCH INC.

ABN 73 941 765 364 REG NO A0028777L

PATRON: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

STATE PRESIDENT: DR ROBERT WEBSTER OAM



RSL Victoria declares that ‘Commemoration will continue’ as COVID-19 warnings begin to cast doubt on ANZAC Day 2020

The Victorian Branch of The Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL Victoria) is optimistic that public commemorative activities for ANZAC Day 2020 will continue as planned, despite Coronavirus (COVID-19) fears.

In response to an enquiry from the Herald Sun received, on March 11, RSL Victoria CEO, Jamie Twidale CSM, said: “At this stage, we fully intend to proceed with ANZAC Day commemorations, including the public Dawn Service and the ANZAC Day March through Melbourne’s CBD.”

“However, we are not ignorant of the threat of COVID-19, and we will be monitoring the situation in Victoria closely. Should the Victorian State Government decide that mass public gathering need to be cancelled, we will have a contingency plan in place. Our contingency constancy plan will ensure that the commemoration on ANZAC Day will continue, all be it in an altered format without a public gathering,” Mr Twidale said.

Mr Twidale went on to say that the RSL is currently negotiating the contingency plan for ANZAC Day 2020 with the Shrine of Remembrance, the State Government and our broadcast partners. The details of the ANZAC Day 2020 contingency plan will be made available should the RSL receive a directive to cancel the public element of ANZAC Day.

RSL Victoria State President, Dr Robert Webster, said that the health and wellbeing of Victorian’s participating in the commemoration of ANZAC Day is of paramount importance to the RSL.

“At this stage, we are hopeful that ANZAC Day 2020 will go ahead as planned. If this is the case, the RSL will be urging all Victorian’s to monitor their own risk

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with regards to COVID-19. Those at increased risk, including the elderly and unwell, are encouraged to talk to their GP and take extra precautions.”

Dr Webster went on to say “This ANZAC Day, Australian’s will be commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII. There are many ways to participate in the commemoration of this event, whether it be by attending a Dawn Service, by watching a Last Post ceremony on TV or online, or by simply taking a moment and reflecting on the service and sacrifice of our veterans. The important thing is that together we remember, Lest We Forget.”

ENDS

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