

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



Media Statement
March 16 2020
For immediate release

Important information regarding ANZAC Day 2020

On Monday, March 16, 2020, RSL Victoria held an emergency meeting of the ANZAC Day Commemorative Committee (ADCC) to discuss whether commemorative services on ANZAC Day would go-ahead amid rising Coronavirus (COVID-19) concerns.

Together the ADCC and RSL Victoria agreed to the following:

- There will be a single Dawn Service at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance however the public will be asked not to attend.
- The Dawn Service at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance will be conducted with small number of official guests and modified to minimize COVID19 risk.
- The ANZAC Day march through Melbourne's CBD and midday service at the Shrine of Remembrance are cancelled.
- RSL Sub-Branches across Victoria will also be asked to conduct a single ANZAC Day commemorative service only. The public will also be asked not to attend these services.

RSL Victoria State President, Dr Robert Webster OAM, said "ANZAC Day 2020 will not look like the ANZAC Day that so many of us are used to participating in. But there will be a service, wreaths will be laid, the last post will still be played, a minute of silence in memory of the fallen will be observed, but the public will be asked to stay at home. This is not a decision that the RSL takes lightly, but public health and safety must be our priority," he said.

Dr Webster went on to say that there are many ways to participate in the commemoration on ANZAC Day.

"Traditionally many of us have marked ANZAC Day by attending a Dawn Service at our local cenotaph or the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance. But in 2020, on April 25, when you can't go to a local Dawn Service, the RSL is asking that instead you tune in via radio, social media or television and take a moment to reflect on

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the service and sacrifice of our veterans and those who are still serving today,” he said.

“The most important thing is that together we remember our pledge as a Nation; Lest We Forget,” Dr Webster said.

RSL Victoria will now work with the Shrine of Remembrance and broadcasters to ensure that the service is televised so that Victorians can commemorate from home.

ENDS

RSL Victoria State President, Dr Robert Webster OAM, and CEO, Jamie Twidale are available for media interviews.

To request an interview, please contact Diane Falzon 0430 596 699 or pr@dianefalzon.com

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