



The Hon Darren Chester MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Minister for Defence Personnel

Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC

MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIANS COMMEMORATE REMEMBRANCE DAY 2018 AND CENTENARY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR ARMISTICE

ALL Australians are encouraged to pause on Remembrance Day 2018, the centenary of the First World War Armistice, and remember the men and women who have suffered and died in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said Remembrance Day this year represented a significant chapter in Australia's military history, marking 100 years since the Armistice was signed, ending the fighting during the First World War.

"On 11 November 1918 at 11 am, the guns on the Western Front fell silent and the most destructive war the modern world had seen was all but over and countries around the world celebrated," Mr Chester said.

"But the war came at great cost to our young nation and of the some 416,000 who enlisted, more than 60,000 never returned home. It affected every community, large and small, across Australia.

"Over the following century, our nation has been called on numerous times and tragically today more than 102,000 names are listed on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial.

"Remembrance Day is a time for us as a nation to unite in a minute of solemn respect and admiration for those who served and died in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations."

Remembrance Day was originally called Armistice Day and two minutes' silence was observed for the very first time at 11 am on 11 November 1919 to remember those who had died. After the Second World War, the Australian Government agreed to the United Kingdom's proposal to rename Armistice Day to Remembrance Day, to commemorate those who were killed in both World Wars.

"Almost two million men and women have worn with pride the uniforms of the Royal Australian Navy, Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force and I encourage all Australians to participate in their local Remembrance Day commemorations," Mr Chester said.

Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling, provides support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families. Free and confidential help is available 24/7. Phone 1800 011 046 (international: +61 8 8241 4546) or visit www.OpenArms.gov.au

“By stopping for a minute’s silence, and acknowledging those who have served and continue to serve our country, we can all show our current and former serving defence personnel and their families that they won’t be forgotten.

“In this, the final year of the Anzac Centenary, it is also vitally important that we instil an ongoing sense of remembrance, respect and reflection in future generations.”

Mr Chester will represent the Australian Government at a commemorative service at the Australian National Memorial near Villers-Bretonneux, France on 11 November 2018. This service will be broadcast live on ABC and on [Facebook](#).

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