



## **110th Anzac-Day-Speech-for-Community-Events- Honouring-Service-and-Reflecting-on-Legacy**

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, veterans, service men and women, and fellow citizens,

Today, we gather on [Gadigal] Country, and I acknowledge and pay my respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

I also pay my respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have contributed to the defence of Australia in times of peace and war. We stand united in acknowledging their profound and often under-recognised role in our nation's history. I also extend my gratitude to all current and former members of the Australian Defence Force present today, as well as the families of Defence personnel. Thank you for your service, your sacrifice, and the unwavering support you provide to your loved ones.

Today is a momentous occasion, as we mark the 110th anniversary of Anzac Day – a day that holds immense significance in our nation's history. It is a day of reflection, of remembrance, and of deep gratitude for the incredible sacrifices made by those who served our country.

On this day, 110 years ago, the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZACs) landed on the shores of Gallipoli. The bravery and resilience they demonstrated in the face of adversity have become the foundation of what we now call the Anzac Spirit – a spirit defined by courage, mateship, and a commitment to service. While the Gallipoli campaign did not achieve its military objectives, the spirit forged during those harrowing days has become an enduring symbol of our nation's character.

As we reflect on these 110 years, we remember not only those who served at Gallipoli but also those who have served in conflicts around the world – across World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, and many other theatres of war. We remember the sacrifices of those who made the ultimate sacrifice and those who returned, forever changed by the horrors of war. We also honour the families and loved ones who have borne the burden of separation and loss, and who continue to support our Defence personnel through their ongoing service.

In this landmark year of the 110th anniversary of Anzac Day, we also acknowledge the ongoing service of our men and women in uniform. Their commitment, whether here on Australian soil or in international missions, reflects the same values that our forebears demonstrated. Today, our servicemen and women continue to carry the torch of honour, duty, and sacrifice, and we owe them our deepest gratitude.

The Anzac Spirit, though born in the trenches of Gallipoli, transcends time and place. It lives on today – not just in the military but in the very fabric of Australian society. It is in the resilience we show in the face of challenges, in the strength of our communities, and in the camaraderie we share with one another. It is in our

determination to come together during times of adversity – be it in the aftermath of natural disasters or in supporting those who are struggling.

As we gather today in our communities across the nation to commemorate this 110th anniversary, let us reflect on the lessons of our Anzacs. Their courage and sacrifice are not just stories of the past – they are lessons we carry with us into the future. The Anzac Spirit reminds us of the value of service, the importance of unity, and the power of empathy and compassion.

Let this anniversary be a reminder that the freedoms we enjoy today come at a cost, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that the sacrifices of those who have gone before us are never forgotten. We must continue to honour their memory by passing down their stories, teaching future generations about the true cost of war, and reaffirming our commitment to the values that they fought for.

As we pause for a moment of silence today, let it be not only a time of remembrance but also a time to recommit ourselves to the enduring legacy of the Anzacs. Let us reflect on the sacrifices of the fallen and ensure that their stories live on in our hearts, in our communities, and in the actions we take to build a better future.

In closing, let us carry the Anzac Spirit with us every day – not just on this solemn occasion but in all we do. Let us live by the principles of courage, mateship, and selflessness. And let us strive to be worthy custodians of the legacy left by those who served our nation with unwavering dedication.

Lest we forget.