



110th Anzac-Day-Speech-for-High-Profile-Events- Honouring-Courage-Legacy-and-Unity

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

This morning, 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. Additionally, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all current and former members of the Australian Defence Force who are with us today, as well as the family members of Defence personnel. Your sacrifices and unwavering support enable the freedoms we hold dear, and for that, we are deeply thankful.

Today, we gather to commemorate the 110th anniversary of Anzac Day – a day that marks an indelible chapter in our nation's history. It is a day to honour the brave men and women whose courage and sacrifices have shaped the very fabric of our country. Over the past 110 years, Anzac Day has become a cornerstone of our national identity, a solemn reminder of the cost of freedom and the strength of those who have served.

Anzac Day is more than a day of remembrance – it is a day of reflection, a day to acknowledge the enduring legacy of the Anzacs who stood in the face of overwhelming adversity. In 1915, as they landed on the shores of Gallipoli, the men of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps displayed an unwavering resolve, exemplifying the values of courage, resilience, and mateship. Those qualities have transcended time and remain vital to the spirit of Australia today.

We pause today to remember those who gave their lives in the service of our nation, from Gallipoli to the Western Front, from the jungles of the Pacific to the deserts of the Middle East, and in countless other locations where our Defence personnel have fought to protect the values we hold dear. Their sacrifice is not merely a chapter in our history books; it is woven into the very fabric of our nation. It is a debt we cannot fully repay, but one we must honour with our commitment to uphold the principles for which they fought.

Anzac Day is also a time to recognise the families and loved ones who stood steadfast behind our service men and women. Their resilience, their sacrifices, and their quiet strength are an integral part of the story of our nation's defence. They, too, have endured hardships in service to our country, and their contribution deserves our deepest respect.

The significance of Anzac Day extends far beyond reflection on the past; it is a reminder to draw strength from the lessons of those who have gone before us. The Anzac Spirit – born of hardship, forged in battle – continues to resonate within every Australian. It is a spirit of unity, courage, and duty to our country. It binds us together and inspires us to face challenges, both big and small, with the same determination and resilience.

In our communities, the Anzac Spirit is reflected in the way we care for one another, extend kindness, and stand together in times of need. It is a reminder that the values demonstrated by the Anzacs continue to shape our collective identity and our actions, today and in the future.

As we mark the 110th anniversary of Anzac Day, we must also recognise the importance of educating future generations about the sacrifices made by the Anzacs. Their bravery and selflessness must never be forgotten. The stories of those who served, and those who gave their lives, must be passed on to ensure that their legacy endures for another 110 years and beyond.

In the face of new and emerging challenges, the Anzac Spirit is more important than ever. It reminds us of the strength we draw from unity, the power of resilience, and the importance of standing together in times of adversity. The sacrifices made by our service men and women 110 years ago – and in the years since – continue to shape the values that define us as a nation.

As we stand together in remembrance today, let us reflect on our responsibilities as custodians of the Anzac legacy. Let us commit to honouring their sacrifices and ensuring their stories are passed down to future generations, that the Anzac Spirit may continue to inspire us all for years to come.

In conclusion, the 110th anniversary of Anzac Day is a moment for us to reflect on the courage, resilience, and sacrifice of those who have served our nation. Let us carry their spirit with us, not just today, but every day in our lives. Let us ensure that we are worthy inheritors of the legacy they have left us and strive to be better individuals and a stronger, united community.

Lest we forget.