



110th Anzac-Day-Speech-for-High-Profile-Events- Honouring-Sacrifice-and-Inspiring-Unity

Ladies and gentlemen, veterans, service men and women, distinguished guests, 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. Today, we honour their invaluable contributions, and we extend our deepest gratitude to all current and former members of the Australian Defence Force present here, as well as the families of Defence personnel. Your service, sacrifice, and ongoing support are what allow us to enjoy the freedoms we hold dear, and for that, we thank you.

Today, we stand together on this hallowed ground, under the vast sky, to commemorate a significant milestone – the 110th anniversary of Anzac Day. On this day, 110 years ago, Australian and New Zealand soldiers landed at Gallipoli in an operation that would become etched in the annals of history, forever shaping the identity of our nations.

Anzac Day is not simply a date on a calendar; it is a powerful and enduring symbol of the courage, resilience, and sacrifice displayed by generations of Australians who answered the call to serve. From the shores of Gallipoli to the battlefields of World War II, from the jungles of Vietnam to the deserts of Afghanistan, the brave men and women of our Defence Forces have exemplified the spirit of selflessness that has defined our country.

As we gather today, we reflect on the sacrifices made by those who left their homes, families, and the safety of everyday life to fight for the principles of freedom, democracy, and justice. These values have defined our nation's ethos, and it is because of their sacrifices that we stand united as a free and democratic society.

It is also important to recognise that the sacrifices of our service members extend beyond the battlefield. We must honour the families and loved ones who stood steadfast by their sides, offering unwavering support, enduring separation, and bearing the weight of hardship and uncertainty. They too have made incredible sacrifices, and their strength has been an essential part of the collective service of our nation.

The Anzac Spirit – forged in the fires of Gallipoli – continues to shape the identity of our nation and binds us together as a community. It is a spirit defined by mateship, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to the common good. It inspires us to reach out to one another, to stand together in times of need, and to support each other no matter the challenges we face. It lives on in our schools, our workplaces, and our communities, reflected in the acts of kindness we show each other, in the respect we have for our fellow citizens, and in our collective responsibility to preserve our nation's heritage.

This 110th anniversary serves as a reminder that, although time has passed, the values that defined the Anzacs remain ever relevant. As we face new and complex challenges in an increasingly uncertain world, the lessons of Anzac Day continue to guide us. The spirit of unity, sacrifice, and resilience that marked the Anzac legend remains a beacon for us today. It teaches us that, despite our differences, we are all bound by shared values and a commitment to a better, more peaceful future.

As we stand here today, united in remembrance, let us reaffirm our collective responsibility to uphold the principles for which our service men and women fought so valiantly. Let us strive for a world where peace prevails over conflict, where compassion triumphs over division, and where the legacy of our fallen heroes continues to inspire positive change for generations to come.

In closing, let us carry the Anzac Spirit not just today, but every day. Let us honour the memory of those who have served by living the values they embodied: courage, mateship, and selflessness. And let us ensure that their sacrifices are never forgotten, that their stories live on, and that their legacy is passed down, generation after generation.

Lest we forget.