



## **110th Anzac-Day-Speech-for-Nursing-Homes- Honouring-Veterans-Compassion-and-Community**

Ladies and gentlemen,

This morning, we gather on [Gadigal] Country, and we acknowledge and pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

I also extend my deepest respect to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have contributed to the defence of Australia, both in times of war and in times of peace. Additionally, I acknowledge all current and former members of the Australian Defence Force here with us today, as well as the families of our Defence personnel.

To our veterans, their families, and the loved ones who have supported them – thank you for your service, your sacrifice, and your unwavering commitment to our nation.

Today, on the 110th anniversary of Anzac Day, we gather to honour, remember, and reflect on the courage and resilience of the men and women who have served our country.

For more than a century, the Anzac spirit has remained a guiding force in our national identity. It is a spirit built on courage, mateship, and sacrifice – values demonstrated by those who, despite great adversity, stood together to protect our freedom.

Our soldiers, sailors, and airmen left behind their homes and families to defend our way of life. Many never returned, and those who did carried the weight of their experiences with them. Their selflessness, bravery, and devotion to duty continue to inspire us today.

Anzac Day is not just about the battles fought on distant shores. It is also about recognising the families and loved ones who waited anxiously for their return, who endured heartbreak and loss, and who provided unwavering support to those who served.

Many of you here today lived through times of war, witnessing firsthand the sacrifices made. Your stories serve as a living testament to the endurance of the human spirit and the power of community.

Today, we also honour the nurses and medical personnel who tended to the wounded with compassion and dedication. From the trenches of Gallipoli to field hospitals across the world, their tireless efforts eased suffering and saved countless lives. Their contributions are an essential part of the Anzac legacy.

The Anzac spirit is not confined to history books – it is something we carry with us today.

We see it in the kindness of those who care for our elderly, in the companionship among residents in this home, and in the support we offer one another during difficult

times. Just as the Anzacs looked out for their mates, so too do we continue their legacy by fostering compassion, unity, and resilience in our communities.

On this anniversary, let us take a moment to:

- Thank our veterans for their service.
- Remember those who are no longer with us.
- Acknowledge the families and caregivers who provide unwavering support.

Anzac Day is not only a day of remembrance and gratitude – it is also a call to action. It reminds us to carry forward the values of courage, kindness, and service to others in our daily lives.

As we pause for a moment of silence, let us reflect on the sacrifices made by our service men and women and express our deepest gratitude for their dedication to our country.

May we honour their memory not only in words, but in our actions – by fostering unity, looking after one another, and ensuring their legacy continues for generations to come.

Lest we forget.