

CENTENARY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Parliamentary Secretary) [1.37 p.m.]: On 22 June I attended the laying up of the retired colours during a service of rededication for members of the order of St John and members of St John Ambulance Australia at the chapel for the Order of St John Ambulance, St Paul's Anglican Church, in Burwood. The practice of laying up colours has its origins in the military, where the old colours were laid up and left to disintegrate on the first Sunday after receiving a new colour. The Order of St John continues this practice as a Royal Order of Chivalry with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as its sovereign head. The Officiant for the St John Liturgy was Right Reverend Bishop Richard Hurford, Sub-Prelate of the Priory of Australia and New South Wales State Chaplain. He was assisted by the Deputy State Chaplain, Reverend Dr Douglas Parker.

This week marks the centenary of the start of the First World War and I am the Parliamentary Secretary with responsibility for the Centenary of Anzac. Whilst honouring those who served, we should acknowledge the work of organisations that look after our servicemen when they return, their families when they are away, and their families when they do not return. Legacy takes a practical approach to honouring our defence service personnel, ensuring that Australia will help look after those who are left. Legacy supports more than 4,500 widows in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. It also supports the children of those who lost their lives while serving our nation and those with long-term disabilities. I congratulate Eric Easterbrook on his recent appointment as President of Legacy. I also acknowledge the work of Colin Dunston during his successful term as president.