

NEWS RELEASE



The Hon. Graham West MP
Minister for Juvenile Justice
Minister for Youth
Minister for Volunteering
Minister Assisting the Premier
on Veterans' Affairs

Wednesday 22 April 2009

JUVENILE OFFENDERS COMMEMORATE ANZAC DAY

Young offenders at Acmena Juvenile Justice Centre commemorated ANZAC Day today, ensuring the sacrifices of servicemen and women are not forgotten, said Minister for Juvenile Justice and Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs, Graham West.

The centre's young people participated in a range of activities aimed at keeping the ANZAC spirit alive.

"Today, young offenders at Acmena Juvenile Justice Centre honoured and respected the efforts of all our servicemen and women," Mr West said.

"The activities arranged by staff at Acmena Juvenile Justice Centre educated young offenders on the history of ANZAC Day.

"Members of the South Grafton RSL Sub-Branch also spoke to the detainees of the bravery of Australian soldiers.

As part of the ANZAC Day activities, young offenders learnt about ANZAC traditions and listened intently as they heard stories of local Indigenous war servicemen and women.

Mr West said on their return to mainstream society, the young offenders will have a deeper understanding of ANZAC Day.

"While in custody, it is important to a young person's rehabilitation that they learn Australia's history and the ANZAC tradition is an important part of this.

"By learning about ANZAC Day at the centre, the young people have gained a stronger understanding of the significance of April 25," Mr West said.

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