

Peter Primrose MLC

Minister for Small Business,
Minister for Volunteering, Minister for Youth,
Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs



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Community urged to apply for war memorial grants before April 23

The Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs, Peter Primrose, has encouraged communities, councils and ex-service organisations to apply for a grant from the Community War Memorials Fund before this year's Anzac Day round of grants closes on April 23.

Mr Primrose said the fund, which was established in 2008, assists community organisations to restore and protect their local war memorials.

"The sacrifices of our servicemen and women from the Boer War to Afghanistan and Iraq today are marked by the more than 3,000 war memorials standing throughout NSW," Mr Primrose told Parliament today.

"Many of these memorials were built by communities grieving the horrific losses of life in the Great War. With the passage of time, many are now in need of repair and conservation.

"The fund assists communities in preserving this vital legacy for future generations."

In the last round of grants, \$80,000 was delivered for 13 restoration projects around the State, ranging from substantial repair, through to simple cleaning and preservation.

The fund also provides for the addition of later conflicts or soldiers' names to ensure all those who have died in the defence of our freedoms are remembered.

Each year, a total of \$250,000 is allocated towards the fund.

Committee members include the President of the NSW RSL, the President of the NSW Shires Association and senior representatives from the NSW Government Architect's Office and the Department of Premier and Cabinet which also administers the fund.

"It is crucial that these precious elements of our heritage are preserved for future generations and that's why I am encouraging community groups to apply for grants from the Community War Memorials Fund," Mr Primrose said.

"As we approach the 95th anniversary of Anzac Day, we must ensure that every year that passes only increases our commitment to never forget the sacrifices of the past."

For more information visit: www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/heritage/memorialsfund