



Victor Dominello MP
Minister for Citizenship and Communities
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

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JOINING FORCES TO COMMEMORATE OUR VETERANS

Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello today announced *Joining Forces*, a joint initiative between the NSW Government, Sydney Legacy and Returned & Services League (RSL) NSW, to engage multicultural communities in Centenary of Anzac activities (2014-2018).

Mr Dominello made the announcement at McCarthy Memorial Park in Smithfield and was joined by Sydney Legacy CEO Andrew Condon, RSL NSW Vice-President John Haines AM, Community Relations Commission Chair Stepan Kerkyasharian AO and the Member for Smithfield Andrew Rohan MP.

“NSW is one of the most multicultural societies in the world and within our migrant communities there is a rich array of family stories from the First World War across nations, defence forces and battlefields,” Mr Dominello said.

“For example, it is not widely reported that approximately 1000 Indian soldiers died at Gallipoli or that a high proportion of Jewish Australians enlisted during the World Wars.

“*Joining Forces* will encourage multicultural communities to participate in Centenary of Anzac activities and commemorate their unique stories from the First World War,” he said.

“Legacy is proud to partner with multicultural groups to support them to participate in activities honouring our veterans in the lead up to the Centenary of Anzac,” Sydney Legacy CEO, Andrew Condon said.

“RSL NSW welcomes the opportunity to join with multicultural communities in raising funds to support our welfare work for veterans and their families,” RSL NSW President Don Rowe OAM said.

“The Anzac spirit is something all migrant communities should seek to embrace – it makes us and our society special and encapsulates the ideas of mateship and self-sacrifice,” Community Relations Commission Chair Stepan Kerkyasharian said.

Examples of the type of activities *Joining Forces* would encourage include:

- A Jewish community group selling badges with Sydney Legacy during badge week;

- An Indian community group selling poppies for RSL NSW on Remembrance Day;

- A Chinese community organising a Morning Tea following an Anzac Day Service;

or

- A member of the South Sudanese community laying a wreath at a Remembrance Day Service.

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