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MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 12 August 2014

WESTERN SYDNEY STUDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM ANZAC SEMINAR

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Victor Dominello and Minister Assisting the Premier on Western Sydney Stuart Ayres have commended an Anzac-themed seminar which is today giving thousands of students the opportunity to hear firsthand from current and former Australian Defence Force personnel about their military experiences.

Mr Dominello said the two-day *Meet the Heroes* seminar, organised by veterans and *Sons of Anzac* founders Gary Phillips and Geoff Lowe, will attract more than 2,400 Western Sydney high school students to Rooty Hill RSL.

"The NSW Government is pleased to provide a \$5,000 grant to assist with transport to and from the event to ensure as many students as possible can participate in this great initiative.

"With the official start of the Centenary of Anzac commemorations last Monday, this seminar offers students the perfect opportunity to engage with the story of our Anzacs by learning from fellow Australians who have served on the frontline.

"Speakers will provide unique insights and perspectives about Australia's war history from the First World War right through to modern conflicts in Afghanistan and Middle East.

"Students will hear from ADF personnel who served in Afghanistan as well as Gary McKay MC, Vietnam veteran and Military Cross recipient who will be Master of Ceremonies.

"An important measure of the success of our Centenary of Anzac commemorations over the next four years will be the legacy created among our students and young people.

"Initiatives like this seminar series are about bringing the story of our Anzacs to life and invigorating the interest of our students. I am sure many will leave with a renewed interest in researching the military service history among their family and local school community."

Mr Ayres said the seminars would encourage young people in Western Sydney to promote the Anzac spirit in their local communities.

"It will provide students with a compelling insight into our country's Anzac history and the immense sacrifices made by our servicemen and women.

"Over the next two days students will have a unique opportunity to learn from veterans and be encouraged to promote the spirit of remembrance in their communities.

"Western Sydney has a rich military history and it is important that future generations of young people are given the opportunity to commemorate those who have served in defence of our freedoms."

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