



The Hon Victor Dominello MP

Minister for Citizenship and Communities
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

26 March 2012

FEDERAL GOV'T CONSULTANTS WRONG: ANZAC UNITES NOT DIVIDES

The Federal Government should distance itself from focus groups and a consultancy report it has funded that reportedly see the commemoration of the Anzac centenary as divisive or risky in terms of multicultural communities, Minister for Citizenship & Communities Victor Dominello MP today said.

“For some Federally-funded consultant to say that the centenary of Anzac – a defining moment in our history as a nation – is somehow divisive or risky is insulting to the men and women who have served our country, as well as to the patriotism of Australians from multicultural backgrounds and to young people,” Mr Dominello, responsible for veterans affairs, multicultural affairs and youth, said.

“The NSW Government doesn’t need the Federal Government’s focus groups to know that the Anzac legacy and spirit brings us together, rather than divides us.

“Communities including the Indian Australian community, the Greek Australian community, and the Italian Australian community regularly commemorate Anzac-related events and other events from our military history.

“Young people and kids of all backgrounds regularly participate in Anzac Day events. The Premier’s Anzac scholars from NSW high schools – from backgrounds including Australian Muslim and Vietnamese – regularly travel to places where our troops have fought battles and now extend the hand of friendship and mutual understanding.

“The NSW Government sees the upcoming commemorations as unifying and uniting. To that end, we have already announced the Anzac community grants because multicultural communities are interested in even more opportunities to participate in commemorating our rich and proud history.

“My own grandfather was interned as an enemy alien during World War II. That didn’t make him any less proud to become an Australian, and I find it insulting that any ‘research’ questions the patriotism of migrants and the descendants of migrants, such as myself.

“Together with the RSL and other concerned people, I encourage the Federal Government to spend our taxpayers’ money on supporting all Australians – regardless of their background or age – to come together in commemorating the glory of Anzac and rather than on divisive focus group research,” Mr Dominello said.

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