



The Hon Darren Chester MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 9 November 2020

AUSTRALIA PAUSES FOR OUR FALLEN PERSONNEL

AUSTRALIANS are encouraged to pause as a nation on Remembrance Day to remember the service and sacrifice of our fallen men and women who gave their lives in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester is encouraging Australians to observe one minute of silent reflection this Wednesday 11 November, at 11am in memory of the sacrifice of our current and former service personnel.

"Remembrance Day is one of the most significant days of our year. It is a day where Australians can remember those who have lost their lives during war, and stand beside our service personnel and veterans and say thank you for your service and sacrifice," Mr Chester said.

"For more than 100 years Australians have stopped on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in silent solidarity and it is during this time that we demonstrate that we will never forget them."

Originally known as Armistice Day, this solemn day was established in 1919, the year after the First World War ended. It was only after the Second World War that 11 November became known as Remembrance Day – as a reflection of the loss and sacrifice of both world wars.

"Just over 20 years after the First World War, Australia was again at war in a global conflict, the Second World War, where more than 39,000 Australians lost their lives," Mr Chester said.

"This Remembrance Day, wear a red poppy in remembrance of our fallen.

"Along with the red poppy, the veteran community is encouraged to wear their Veteran Lapel Pin or Reservist Lapel Pin, provided as part of the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant, so the community can readily identify and acknowledge those who have served our nation in the defence force.

"As a nation, we will remember them. Lest we forget."

If you are a veteran or family member who may be struggling or in need of additional support during this time, please call Open Arms 24/7 on 1800 011 046 or visit OpenArms.gov.au to find more about services available.

The Australian War Memorial will commemorate Remembrance Day with a televised National Ceremony on 11 November.

The ceremony will take place in the Captain Reg Saunders Courtyard of the Memorial from 10.45 am and will be broadcast live across Australia by the ABC, and available later on ABC iView.

The Memorial's Last Post Ceremony, featuring the recitation of the Eulogy for the Unknown Australian Soldier by a member of the Australian Defence Force, will take place at 4.55 pm and be streamed online.

The Memorial will also host an evening opening of the Commemorative Area from 5.30 pm until 7.00 pm. Visitors are welcome to attend to pay their respects and visit the Hall of Memory. Visitors will not need to book a ticket for the after-hours visit, but will need to provide name and contact details for contact tracing purposes.

On Remembrance Day, we remember all those who have lost their lives in wars and conflicts, and the sacrifice our service personnel have made. This Remembrance Day Australians are encouraged to share their personal commemorations on social media by using the hashtag: #RemembranceDay. For more information about Remembrance Day, visit the [Anzac Portal](#).

ENDS

Media Note:

Remembrance Day can be a deeply emotional time for Australia's veterans and their families and some may find this time of year difficult.

As you cover stories and run programs about Australia's military history and its effect on Australians who have served in the Australian Defence Force (ADF), the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) requests you include contact details for specialised counselling services and resources for veterans where appropriate.

- Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling Service (formerly VVCS) provides free and confidential counselling and support for current and former ADF members and their families. They can be reached **24/7** on **1800 011 046** or visit the Open Arms website for more information.

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