



Media Release

Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC
Special Minister of State

Thursday, 4 September 2014

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COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA CONTRIBUTES \$2 MILLION TO THE ANZAC CENTENARY PUBLIC FUND

I extend my gratitude to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia for their very generous \$2 million contribution to the Anzac Centenary Public Fund.

The Centenary of Anzac will mark a century of service and sacrifice, encompassing all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations in which Australians have been involved. It will be the most significant period of commemoration in our nation's history and the Government is committed to providing opportunities for all Australians to participate.

Money raised through the fund will provide essential support for the Anzac Centenary programme and commemorations. It is particularly pleasing to see large corporations like the Commonwealth Bank making significant contributions to the fund.

The Commonwealth Bank has a proud history of military service and contribution to Australia's war effort during the First World War. The Bank financed and managed the purchase of 15 merchant vessels urgently required to maintain overseas trade and supplies to our troops in Europe, floating war loans raising over £257 million in public subscriptions, and working with other Australian banks to finance primary producers who had been organised into war-time production pools

After the War, the Commonwealth Bank was commissioned to direct and fund the building of homes under *The War Service Home Act* of 1918 to address Australia's post-war housing situation. This involved the Commonwealth Bank building close to 2,000 homes and purchasing over 5,000 houses to rent out to families in their time of need.

The Commonwealth Bank was there ready to support our servicemen and their families throughout some of Australia's darkest times, and now their generous donation will see continuous support to the community and the Anzac legacy.

I would like to again acknowledge the significant contribution of Mr Lindsay Fox AC for his tireless efforts in obtaining corporate support for the fund.

All donations gifted to the Public Fund will be spent on approved Anzac Centenary initiatives or commemorative projects across Australia.

For more information on the Anzac Centenary Public Fund, including how to make a donation, please visit the Anzac Centenary website www.anzaccentenary.gov.au

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