

# The Returned and Services League of Australia

(New South Wales Branch)



**Patron**  
Her Excellency Professor  
Marie Bashir AC, CVO  
Governor of New South Wales

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**State Secretary**  
C.P. Perrin AFAIM

.....DNJ.277.1/A.....

If telephoning or calling with  
reference to this letter, contact

.....**Mr Douglas James**  
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29 July 2009

Professor Joellen Riley  
Review of Banks & Bank Holiday Act  
Office of industrial Relations  
NSW Department of Commerce  
2-24 Rawson Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000  
[review@oir.commerce.nsw.gov.au](mailto:review@oir.commerce.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Professor Riley,

The New South Wales Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL) as a policy for ANZAC Day believes that this day is only commemorated on 25 April annually. To allow the general public to join in the commemoration it is understandable that this would only be possible from a declared Public Holiday. Hence we would want the statue quo to be retained. It should be understood that with recent conflicts there are a number of veterans who are still in the workplace and without a Public Holiday they would be disfranchised in joining the various commemoration activities.

The RSL sees no reason for an additional Public Holiday to be declared if ANZAC Day should fall on a Saturday or Sunday.

The RSL also holds the view that no trading, sporting, cultural or other public events other than those involving the commemoration of ANZAC Day should be permitted before 1.00PM on that day.

It is important to state that in regards to ANZAC Day in Sydney there are four events that serve to permit the citizens to observe this day of remembrance and commemoration;

- (a) Dawn Service at the Cenotaph (starting at 4.17AM) - conducted by the Dawn Service Trust,
- (b) ANZAC Day March commencing at 9.00AM- RSL responsible

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(c) ANZAC Commemoration Service commencing at 12.30PM – RSL responsible

(d) Sunset Service commencing at 5.00PM – RSL responsible.

There is a number of wreath laying services at the Cenotaph between the Dawn Service and March and after the completion of the march. Members of the public also conducted their own private wreath layings during the afternoon.

Similar acts of remembrance and commemoration are held at various times during the day in other Cities, suburbs, towns and hamlets within the state of NSW.

In relation to the other listed public holidays it is considered that it would be inappropriate for the NSW Branch of the RSL to make comment without consultation with its constitute bodies which has not been possible within the time frame of the review.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Rowe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DON ROWE  
STATE PRESIDENT