



**State Minister's Message
Issue 56 (2 March, 2010)**

A regular update from the Office of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, The Hon. Michael Atkinson M.P.

ANZAC Day

Minister Atkinson expresses his disappointment that Kmart has applied to the NSW Government to trade on ANZAC Day before the traditional opening time of 1pm (12 Noon in South Australia). Although there has been no application for Kmart to open on the morning of ANZAC Day in South Australia, the State Government has joined with the Commonwealth Government and ex-service organisations to condemn the application.

ANZAC Day is one of our most sacred days. On ANZAC Day we honour those who served our country and those who died for our country.

Minister Atkinson believes it is appropriate that traders, out of respect for the significance of the day, remain closed while ANZAC Day commemorations are taking place and hopes that traders will remain closed until midday as a mark of respect, as has been the case in previous years.

It's important to note that while the official commemorations and ANZAC Day parade will occur on Sunday, 25 April, the ANZAC Day public holiday will be observed on Monday, 26 April and under the current legislation normal public holiday trading arrangements will be applicable.

ANZAC Day is time to remember the more than 102,000 Australians who have made the ultimate sacrifice and died in the service of our country and not for shopping, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin said, expressing his disappointment in Kmart's application to trade on ANZAC Day.

Minister Atkinson said that the Kmart application was particularly disappointing given that in recent years we have seen more people attending services, including young people, paying tribute to all our servicemen and women. It seems unnecessary and disrespectful to open shops while our veterans are marching in ANZAC Day parades.

Formation of the Australian Navy & Australian Army

The Australian Navy and the Australian Army turned 109 yesterday on 1 March.

A commemorative service was held at the Australian War Memorial around the Pool of Reflection. Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie spoke to the officers and soldiers about the importance of the occasion.

The newly formed Commonwealth Government created the Department of Defence on 1 March 1901. It was from this time that the Australian Navy and the Australian Army came into being.

For more information about any of the items mentioned, please contact Veterans SA on 8207 1723.