



## Overview of Commemorations

### Overview of *Saluting Their Service*

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*Saluting Their Service* is the Australian Government's Commemorations program. It aims to highlight the service and sacrifice of Australia's servicemen and women in wars, conflicts and peace operations since Federation and to promote appreciation and understanding of the role that those who have served have played in shaping the nation. The program is designed to preserve our heritage from wars and conflicts and encourage community participation in commemorative events. It aims to involve people throughout the nation in a wide range of activities and projects.

#### Why do we have a *Saluting Their Service* program?

The program is designed to leave a lasting legacy of ongoing commemoration and understanding by the Australian community. Commemoration is an important means of:

- expressing the recognition and gratitude of all Australians to those who served;
- honouring those who made the supreme sacrifice; and
- educating the community, especially young Australians, about Australia's involvement in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations and about significant military events.

#### What does the *Saluting Their Service* program involve?

*Saluting Their Service* supports commemorative activities and educational programs so that Australians may learn about and acknowledge the events of our wartime years; the significance of those events in shaping our nation; and stories of the people who experienced those years, their bravery and suffering.

Importantly, the roles played by men and women in local communities throughout Australia in serving our nation can be acknowledged and promoted.

*Saluting Their Service* provides opportunities for communities, organisations and individuals to take an active role in commemoration and to ensure that the service of today's Australian Defence Force is properly recognised.

The program involves people throughout the nation in a wide range of events, activities and projects. Some of these are national in focus, others can be developed and implemented by local communities and groups with Australian Government support.

# Overview of Saluting Their Service, *continued*

## What are the aims of the *Saluting Their Service* program?

- raise community awareness about the service and sacrifice of Australian servicemen and women
- educate younger Australians about our wartime heritage and its importance in the development of our nation
- recognise significant events in wars and conflicts including the anniversaries of important battles and actions
- preserve war memorials and memorabilia in communities across the country
- ensure national days of remembrance, such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day, are recognised and commemorated in an appropriate and respectful manner

## What are the initiatives of the *Saluting Their Service* program?

- raise awareness of significant wartime anniversaries
- support community commemorative events
- provide resource materials for education
- preserve wartime memorabilia
- develop innovative websites and publications featuring our wartime history and experiences
- provide Certificates of Appreciation for wartime service

## Other Factsheets

Other Factsheets related to this topic include:

- *Valuing our Veterans: COM 16*
- *Certificates of Appreciation: COM 25*
- *Memories and Memorabilia: COM 26*
- *60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Second World War Commemorative Medallion: COM 27*
- *Commemorations Grants Program: GS 14*

## More information

For more telephone numbers refer to the relevant 'Who to Contact' Factsheet (DVA 07).

All DVA Factsheets are available from DVA offices, and on the DVA website at [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au).

You can phone DVA for the cost of a local call on 133 254 or 1800 555 254 for country callers.

Use a normal landline phone if you can. Mobile phone calls may cost you more.

You can send an email to DVA at: [generalenquiries@dva.gov.au](mailto:generalenquiries@dva.gov.au)

You can get more help from any DVA office.