



Hon Yvette D'Ath MP  
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services  
Leader of the House

20 MAY 2021

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Mr Neil Laurie  
Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliament  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 3463-21, tabled in Parliament on 20 April 2021, in relation to Restore Anzac Day 2021.

Anzac Day is a national day of remembrance and the Queensland Government recognises the importance of commemorating our veterans who sacrificed so much for our nation.

In April 2020, there were more than 270 active COVID-19 cases in Queensland. Public Health restrictions were put in place to protect the safety of Queenslanders, leading to the difficult decision to cancel Anzac Day commemorative events last year.

Although we couldn't gather, thousands of Queenslanders stood in their driveways and lit candles to pay their respects.

This year, due to Queenslanders doing the right thing throughout the pandemic, and our continued low levels of community transmission, Anzac Day commemorative events, such as Dawn Services, street parades and marches were held as normal. There were no restrictions on outdoor Anzac Day commemorative events.

To ensure the continued protection of the community and those attending events who may be particularly vulnerable, such as senior veterans and those with chronic conditions, Queensland Health provided guidance material to event organisers on how to undertake outdoor Anzac Day commemorations in a COVID-Safe way.

In early March 2021, the Queensland Government engaged with key stakeholders, including RSL Queensland and local councils, in the development of event guidance material.

Thousands of Queenslanders attended outdoor Anzac events across the Queensland while complying with the relevant health protection measures such as physical distancing and wearing a mask where physical distancing was not possible.

Anzac Day events held indoors were required to comply with Chief Health Officer Public Health Directions and the COVID Safe Events Framework. We know that the risk of COVID-19 is much higher in indoor environments, and these are sensible precautions to take and consistent with the usual restriction in these venues.

While we continue to ease restrictions to allow businesses and the community to return to normal activities, and we continue with the rollout of vaccinations, protective public health measures will need to remain in place to some degree for at least a while longer.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely



**YVETTE D'ATH MP**  
**Minister for Health and Ambulance Services**  
**Leader of the House**