

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Juvenile Justice
Minister for Youth
Minister for Volunteering
Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs
The Hon. Graham West MP



Tuesday, 24 November 2009

CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE 75 YEARS OF SYDNEY'S ANZAC MEMORIAL

Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs, Graham West, has announced a special ceremony to mark the 75th anniversary of Sydney's ANZAC Memorial and to officially re-open the building after refurbishments – to be held at 7:30pm tonight in Hyde Park.

Mr West said the NSW Government has contributed \$6 million towards the restoration of the memorial, one of Australia's most important buildings.

"The ANZAC Memorial is a physical expression of the ANZAC legend, commemorating the courage, endurance and sacrifice of Australian soldiers," Mr West said.

"It is a place of commemoration of Australians who have served their country in wars, conflicts and emergencies. It provides a place for individual mourning, a retreat for reflection on all those who have served their country and a place of comfort for those whose loved ones never returned home," he added.

The memorial, located in Hyde Park South, was built between 1932 and 1934 to commemorate the sacrifices of those who fought in World War I and was opened on 24 November 1934. In 1984, the building was re-dedicated to all NSW citizens who have served in wars which involved Australia.

More than 200 invited guests will join dignitaries at tonight's ceremony, which will be held outside around the Pool of Reflection.

After the ceremony, guests and the public will be able to walk through the Memorial's Hall Of Memory where they can cast a gold star featuring the name of a fallen NSW soldier down into the Well Of Contemplation to the statue 'Sacrifice'.

A 'Spirit of Anzac' exhibition will also be officially opened at the Memorial tonight. The Memorial is open to the public daily (except Christmas Day and Good Friday) 9am to 5pm from Wednesday 25 November.

Contact:

Cara Davis, Minister West 02 9228 4228 or 0407 219 944