



Victor Dominello MP

Minister for Citizenship and Communities

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT ASSISTS MEMORIAL TO REPLACE STOLEN PLAQUES

Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello has announced the NSW Government will provide \$10,000 to help replace 10 bronze plaques stolen from a community war memorial.

Thieves broke through padlocked gates around the Five Dock War Memorial last month and removed the plaques inscribed with the names of local servicemen who died serving their country in war.

“As part of the NSW Government’s Community War Memorials Fund, \$10,000 has been allocated to Canada Bay Council to assist it replace the names of the fallen in the war memorial in Five Dock Park,” Mr Dominello said.

“This crime was extremely upsetting to the veterans’ community. The desecration of a war memorial is an insult to the entire community, and particularly hurtful to our current and former servicemen and women and their families.”

Member for Drummoyne John Sidoti said those who damage war memorials clearly do not understand the significance of these sites.

“The sacrifices made by our servicemen and women obviously don’t come into the minds of these heartless vandals,” Mr Sidoti said.

Last month the NSW Government announced that people who desecrate war memorials could be required to work alongside veterans to help maintain the sites as part of their punishment.

Offenders could be required to undertake voluntary work with the RSL. Activities offenders may undertake could include volunteering with the RSL Corps of Guards or assisting the ANZAC Memorial Guardians with Memorial tours.

The proposal involves offenders convicted of offences under section 8 of the *Summary Offences Act 1988* “Damaging or desecrating protected places” participating in a program that would involve the offenders volunteering with the Corp of Guards at the Hyde Park ANZAC Memorial. Juvenile offenders could participate as an outcome of existing Youth Justice Conferences, and adult offenders could also participate as an outcome of Forum Sentencing.

The NSW Government is working with the RSL and other interested parties about the implementation of the measures.

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