



# Victor Dominello MP

Minister for Citizenship and Communities  
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs  
Minister for Veterans' Affairs  
Assistant Minister for Education

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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Thursday, 29 May 2014

### UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY TO HONOUR ABORIGINAL VETERANS DURING CENTENARY OF ANZAC

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Victor Dominello today announced University of Sydney had become a partner in *Wartime Legends*, a NSW Centenary of Anzac initiative encouraging recognition of the military service of Aboriginal and Torres Islanders.

Mr Dominello said *Wartime Legends* included an online 'How to Guide' for schools, universities, local RSLs and businesses to incorporate commemorations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' military service in their activities from 2014 to 2018.

Coinciding with National Reconciliation Week and Vivid Sydney, the University's quadrangle façade was illuminated last night with a *Wartime Legends* light show.

The display included images of Aboriginal and Torres Islander veterans from across the ages and was harmonised by poetry reading from Warren Morgan and a didgeridoo performance by Kyol Blakeney (President of Wirriga Society).

"I congratulate the University on its commitment to giving special recognition to our Aboriginal veterans through this magnificent light show and ceremony.

"The Centenary of Anzac provides an opportunity for all Australians to commemorate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' contribution to overseas military campaigns, particularly the First World War.

"Sadly the service of 400 Aboriginal veterans who fought on the Western Front and in Gallipoli was largely neglected and they faced prejudice and exclusion after the war.

"*Wartime Legends* encourages appropriate acknowledgement of Aboriginal veterans' invaluable service to our nation and recognition of the hardship which confronted many before and after the First World War," Mr Dominello said.

University of Sydney Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategies and Services) Shane Houston said the university was proud to become a *Wartime Legends* partner.

"Aboriginal people have been represented in all major ADF operations over the last century, including in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

"The University is committed to broadening public awareness and honouring their service during the Centenary of Anzac period," Professor Houston said.

Information about *Wartime Legends* and other NSW Centenary of Anzac initiatives can be found at: <http://www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/centenary/>.

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