



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Dear Tour Operators

**RE: TOUR PROVIDER BRIEFINGS – AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT OVERSEAS
COMMEMORATIONS – RSVP BY 27 OCTOBER 2016**

The Centenary of the First World War provides a unique opportunity to commemorate the service of around 416,809 Australians, the loss of some 60,000 and to remember the impact of war on an entire generation of Australian families and communities.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) is the lead agency for the aforementioned program and is currently delivering a suite of commemorative services overseas through to 2018. The full program has been enclosed for your information.

DVA is holding briefings for tour providers regarding these commemorations. Briefings will include important information about attendance pass systems and requirements.

The Briefings will be held as follows:

ADELAIDE – Monday 31 October 2016 – 11:00AM

Department of Veterans' Affairs
Level 25 - Birrallee Room
Blackburn House
199 Grenfell Street
Adelaide SA 5000

BRISBANE - Tuesday 01 November 2016 – 11:00AM

Department of Veterans' Affairs
(ROOM TBC)
259 Queen Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

MELBOURNE – Wednesday 02 November 2016 – 11:00AM

Department of Veterans' Affairs
Level 11 – Repatriation Room
Argus Centre
300 La Trobe Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

SYDNEY – Thursday 03 November 2016 – 11:00AM
Department of Veterans' Affairs
Tower B
(ROOM TBC)
Centennial Plaza
280 Elizabeth Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010

Briefings will also be held in Paris, London, Istanbul and Tel Aviv. If you have representatives in these areas and require information about local briefings please contact the Department.

Briefings will run for approximately 1.5hrs and there will be time after the briefing session for individual providers to discuss any issues with DVA staff.

If you wish to be included in the briefing session for tour providers, please contact the Department by email via france@dva.gov.au or gallipoli@dva.gov.au, providing your company's name, contact details, location of the briefing you wish to attend and the names of those who will attend, no later than Thursday 27 October.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Evans', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke underneath.

Tim Evans
Assistant Secretary Commemorations

// October 2016

ENCL

Commemorative Services Program – Service Snapshot.

Gallipoli Anzac Day Dawn Service – Anzac Commemorative Site, Gallipoli, Turkey

Event:	Dawn Service: Anzac Commemorative Site
Date:	Monday, 24 April 2017 – Tuesday, 25 April 2017
Time:	9:00 pm: Coach registration commences (TBC) 10:00 pm: Site opens (TBC) 11:00 pm: Reflective program commences 3:00 am: Coach registration closes (last arrival) 5:30am: Dawn service commences
Seating Style:	Varied – Limited grandstands may be available – bucket-style & grassed area with no seats.
Venue:	Anzac Commemorative site, Gallipoli
Attendance Passes:	Required – Registration available December 2016
Note:	It is expected there will be a number of changes to visitor arrival processes for the Dawn Service at Gallipoli in 2017. Coach registration will not open until the evening of 24 April and the Anzac Commemorative Site itself will not open to visitors until approximately 10pm on 24 April. In addition, an Australian service will be held at Lone Pine cemetery and a New Zealand service at Cunuk Bair on the morning of 25 April after the Dawn Service.

France Anzac Day Dawn Service – Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France

Event:	Dawn Service: Australian National Memorial
Date:	Tuesday, 25 April 2017
Time:	1:00 am: Site opens 1:30am: Pre-service program commences 5:00am All visitors to be seated 5:30am: Dawn service commences
Seating Style:	All seated: Grand stand and chairs on flat grass
Venue:	The Australian National Memorial, (outside the village of) Villers-Bretonneux
Attendance Passes:	Required – Registration available December 2016
Note:	Due to the installation of technical equipment for the conduct of the Dawn Service, for safety reasons the central tower of the Australian National Memorial will not be open to the public from 22-26 April 2017.

Bullecourt Anzac Day Service – Australian Digger Memorial, Bullecourt, France

Event:	Australian Service at Digger Memorial
Date:	Tuesday, 25 April 2017
Time:	3:00 pm
Seating Style:	Standing only
Venue:	The Australian ‘Digger’ Memorial on the village outskirts
Attendance Passes:	Not Required
Note:	2017 commemorates the Centenary of the battle of Bullecourt.

100th Anniversary of the Battle of Polygon wood, Zonnebeke, Belgium

Event:	National Commemorative Service at Polygon Wood
Date:	Wednesday, 26 September 2017
Time:	TBC (Dawn Service)
Seating Style:	Limited seating available
Venue:	5 th Division Memorial, Buttes New British Cemetery, Zonnebeke, Belgium
Attendance Passes:	Required – Registration available December 2016
Note:	

100th Anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba, Be'er Sheva, Israel

Event:	National commemorative service of Beersheba
Date:	Tuesday, 31 October 2017
Time:	TBC
Seating Style:	TBC
Venue:	Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, Be'er Sheva, Israel
Attendance Passes:	Required – Registration available December 2016
Note:	

Gallipoli Anzac Day Dawn Service – Anzac Commemorative Site, Gallipoli, Turkey

Event:	Dawn Service: Anzac Commemorative Site
Date:	Tuesday, 24 April 2018 – Wednesday, 25 April 2018
Time:	TBC (Dawn Service)
Seating Style:	Varied – Limited grandstands may be available – bucket-style & grassed area with no seats.
Venue:	
Attendance Passes:	Required – Registration available May 2017
Note:	

France Anzac Day Dawn Service – Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France

Event:	Dawn Service: Australian National Memorial
Date:	Wednesday, 25 April 2018
Time:	TBC (Dawn Service)
Seating Style:	All seated: Grand stand and chairs on flat grass
Venue:	The Australian National Memorial, (outside the village of) Villers-Bretonneux
Attendance Passes:	Required – Registration available May 2017
Note:	Due to the installation of technical equipment for the conduct of the Dawn Service, for safety reasons the central tower of the Australian National Memorial will not be open to the public from 22-26 April 2018.

Bullecourt Anzac Day Service – Tuesday 25 April 2017, Bullecourt, France

Event:	Australian Service at Digger Memorial
Date:	Wednesday, 25 April 2018
Time:	TBC (generally afternoon)
Seating Style:	Standing only
Venue:	The Australian 'Digger' Memorial on the village outskirts
Attendance Passes:	Not Required

Note:	
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100th Anniversary of the battle of Le Hamel – Australian Corps Memorial, Le Hamel, France

Event:	National Commemorative Service of Le Hamel
Date:	Wednesday, 04 July 2018
Time:	TBC
Seating Style:	TBC
Venue:	The Australian Corps Memorial, Le Hamel, France
Attendance Passes:	Required – Registration available June 2017
Note:	

100th Anniversary of the First World War Armistice – Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France

Event:	Dawn Service: Australian National Memorial
Date:	Sunday, 11 November 2018
Time:	TBC
Seating Style:	All seated: Grand stand and chairs on flat grass
Venue:	The Australian National Memorial, (outside the village of) Villers-Bretonneux
Attendance Passes:	Required – Registration available November 2017
Note:	Due to the installation of technical equipment for the conduct of the Dawn Service, for safety reasons the central tower of the Australian National Memorial will not be open to the public from 09-10 November 2018.