



The Hon Dan Tehan MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Cyber Security
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC

Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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MC17-001508

Dr David Stephens
admin@honesthistory.net.au

Dear Dr Stephens

Thank you for your email of 9 May 2017 which focussed on the cost of commemorating the service and sacrifice of Australians during the First World War.

Australia's commitment to the First World War added a chapter of loss and grief to our national story that must not be forgotten. Many Australians living today were born into families marked by this lingering grief, and grew up in towns and cities around the country where monuments in main streets and honour rolls in community buildings remember their lost generations.

The total Australian Government Anzac Centenary funding commitment over the last 10 years to 2018-19 is approximately \$342 million. This includes the funding for the Sir John Monash Centre in France. This spending is less than 1 percent of DVA's overall budget for the same period of more than \$120 billion. The Department of Defence budget for the same period is approximately \$277 billion.

By commemorating the service of the Australian armed forces over the last one hundred years, we not only pay respect to the service and sacrifice of past servicemen and servicewomen, we are tangibly demonstrating to contemporary veterans that the nation respects and values military service.

If you believe that spending of \$342 million over a 10 year period is excessive, I would welcome your views on what an appropriate level of funding would have been to recognise the millions of Australians who have served in the Australian armed forces and the more than 102,000 who have paid the supreme sacrifice.

Thank you for writing to me about the commemoration of the service and sacrifice of Australians.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan Teahan', written over the printed name.

DAN TEHAN