



Media Release | RSA National

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RSA Supports Gallipoli 2015 Ballot Decision

The RSA supports the decision announced today by the Minister of Veterans' Affairs on the ballot for attendance at the Gallipoli Centenary Commemorations in 2015.

"I attended the ceremonies at Gallipoli on Anzac Day 2012 when in excess of 5,000 attended and the management of 10,500 visitors on the Peninsular will be a major commitment," says National President Don McIver.

The RSA presented a submission to government on the conduct of the ballot which was generally along the lines of that announced today.

"We consider the proportion of the total places allocated between Australia and New Zealand to be fair, and the proposed New Zealand ballot arrangements announced today are fair too," Mr McIver said.

It is appropriate that the descendants of those who served there are given an allocation of 200 places in the ballot. Equally, today's veterans deserve the special recognition of their contribution to our military heritage alongside their Gallipoli forbears in serving the nation in conflict overseas. The RSA notes that those who apply in one of those ballots and are unsuccessful will be included in the general ballot.

The RSA also welcomes the allocation to special groups, such as youth representatives, ensuring that young New Zealanders will have the opportunity to experience this historic commemoration.

"The commemoration ceremonies at Gallipoli in 2015 are already raising a great deal of interest amongst New Zealanders and we are sure the places on offer will be highly contested."

ENDS

Contact

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