



Doug Parkinson, MLC

Leader for the Government in the
Legislative Council

Thursday, 15 October 2009

Anzac Day In Tasmania

The Statutory Holidays Amendment Bill 2009, which proposed an amendment to the Statutory Holidays Act 2000, defining the dates of holidays in Tasmania, has been rejected by Independent members of the Legislative Council – denying Tasmanians a public holiday for Anzac Day as an automatic right established in other states.

Doug Parkinson, Leader for the Government in the Legislative Council, said that the bill proposed a straightforward amendment to the Act to provide for a substitute public holiday for Anzac Day when it falls on a Sunday or Easter Monday. This would mean an additional weekday public holiday in Tasmania, on average, once every eleven years.

“The amendment resulted from a decision of the Council for the Australian Federation, which is made up of all states and territories, to harmonise arrangements across Australia in relation to Anzac Day,” Mr Parkinson said.

“All other states and territories now have legislation in place that provides for a substitute or additional holiday when Anzac Day falls on a Sunday.

“This amendment was proposed to make sure that we celebrated Anzac Day with the rest of Australia: which is important symbolically and commercially.

“Currently, in Tasmania the Act provides that a public holiday is observed for Anzac Day on the 25th April. When Anzac Day falls on a Saturday or a Sunday, no substitute or additional holiday is observed on the following Monday.

“It has always been the Government’s intention that Anzac Day will be celebrated on April 25th.”

The Amendment was supported by Labor members of the Legislative Council and by Liberal, Dr Vanessa Goodwin, and Independent, Paul Harriss.

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