

DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH
HON GUY BARNETT MP

Anzac Day Trust Winding-up Bill 2020

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I move - that the Bill now be read for the second time.

Madam Speaker, the Anzac Day Trust was established under the *Anzac Day Observance Act* in 1970 to provide grants to service organisations who support the welfare of members of the Australian Defence Forces and their dependents.

This followed an agreement between RSL Tasmania, horse racing authorities and the Tasmanian Government to allow horse racing and other sporting events to take place after midday on Anzac Day.

The RSL successfully negotiated for a portion of profit made at those race meetings to be provided to a fund, administered by the Trust, to assist ex-service personnel and their dependants. It also provided for the Trust to receive and disburse bequests and gifts. However, there is no record of the Trust having received these.

It was rare that Anzac Day race meetings resulted in a net profit. This led to a change in the Act in 1981 to allow an annual payment to the Trust of any amount determined by the Treasurer in lieu of the sum derived from race meetings.

In 1996, the then Treasurer agreed to index the amount in line with the Consumer Price Index which the former Premier, the Hon Will Hodgman MP, endorsed in 2015.

The Act established the Trust consisting of four Trustees, appointed by the Governor on the recommendations of the Minister responsible for administering the Act.

The Act was reviewed in 2010 and, based on the feedback received, the Trust was retained.

The cost of providing secretariat and administrative support is high compared to the size of funding available (\$25,000 in 2019-20) and the number of recipients.

Since 2011, only four eligible organisations have received funding. In recent years, Hobart Legacy has been the only eligible applicant under an arrangement with Launceston Legacy, where Hobart Legacy applies on behalf of both organisations and 50 per cent of the amount disbursed by the Trust is remitted to Launceston Legacy.

The Bill provides for the following:

- The winding-up of the Anzac Day Trust and Fund;
- The transfer of any assets and liabilities of the Trust to the Crown;
- The responsibility for dealing with any current or future legal proceedings and related matters; and
- The repeal of Part III of the Act that establishes the Trust.

If the Trust is wound-up, a new approach will be implemented that is consistent with the purpose of the Trust to provide funding to organisations that provide welfare services to veterans and their dependents.

Under the new approach, annual funding of \$40 000 per annum will be provided to Legacy (Hobart and Launceston) through four-year grant deeds.

This approach will provide certainty for Legacy Hobart and Launceston and be consistent with the purpose of the Trust. It will also minimise administrative costs associated with the Trust for the Government and Legacy Hobart and Launceston.

To ensure that any other welfare organisation/s that provide services to veterans or their dependents can seek funding support, the guidelines for the Teddy Sheean Memorial Grants Program will be amended to make welfare activities and organisations eligible to apply for funding.

I would like to thank the current Chair of the Trust, Mr Ricky Bott, and Trustees Mr Paul Crew and Mr Wayne Luttrell and all previous members of the Trust for their commitment to the welfare of Tasmania's veterans.

I commend the Bill to the House.