

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
SECOND READING SPEECH

(Lisa Singh, Minister for Workplace Relations)

Statutory Holidays Amendment Bill 2009

- Mr Speaker, I move -
- That the Bill now be read for the second time.
- The *Statutory Holidays Act 2000* defines the dates of holidays in Tasmania.
- The Statutory Holidays Amendment Bill 2009 proposes a straight forward amendment to the Act to provide for a substitute public holiday for Anzac Day when it falls on a Sunday or Easter Monday.
- This 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- Mr Speaker, with the proposed amendment there will be no substitute holiday when Anzac Day falls on a Saturday or a weekday. Arrangements will be unchanged and the holiday will be on the day it falls.
- The amendment will mean there will be an additional weekday public holiday, on average, every 11 years with the first holiday occurring on Monday 26th April 2010 when Anzac Day falls on a Sunday.

- Further to this, in 2011 Anzac Day falls on Easter Monday and it is proposed that a substitute holiday be observed on Easter Tuesday. No additional provision has been made however, Mr Speaker, for those employees who would normally receive a Bank Holiday on Easter Tuesday; this includes bank employees, state public servants and those covered under some awards. Those employees will continue to receive the bank holiday in subsequent years as their awards or agreements specify.
- In conclusion Mr Speaker, Anzac Day is a day of remembrance to honour those who served and particularly those who died serving Australia in times of conflict. It is appropriate that Anzac Day continues to be commemorated on the 25th of April and not on the substitute holiday.
- Tasmania, together with other states and territories, has been encouraged to work together towards national harmonisation by scheduling nationally celebrated public holidays on the same day. This assists in removing inconsistencies and impediments for business and therefore has the capacity to increase productivity.

- Mr Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.