

HONOURING VETERANS

Position:

- FAMILY FIRST believes that all Australians should be grateful for the courage and sacrifice of our veterans, who as part of the Australian Defence Force worked to protect Australia and advance the nation's interests in time of war or conflict. Many thousands of servicemen paid the ultimate price fighting for Australia;
- FAMILY FIRST acknowledges that increasing numbers of young Australians want to learn more about our nation's war history and pay respect to those who fought for their freedom. FAMILY FIRST strongly supports both of these positive initiatives;
- FAMILY FIRST is concerned ANZAC Day is not guaranteed as a public holiday. Before *Work Choices*, public holidays like Anzac Day were guaranteed and workers had a legal right to take them off. But if they did work, they were guaranteed penalty rates. Under *Work Choices*, public holidays are no longer guaranteed. And those who do work on public holidays are not guaranteed one cent extra. Public holidays are important family and community days and Anzac Day is a day when Australians should be allowed to honour our fallen heroes;
- FAMILY FIRST understands that many long term health problems result from diggers being asked by our country to fight and that we have an obligation to ensure they are well cared for.

Actions:

- FAMILY FIRST supports giving special attention to the needs of veterans, to ensure their health is looked after;
- FAMILY FIRST supports Federal funding for projects to bring fallen diggers home to Australia, to their final rest;
- FAMILY FIRST introduced legislation to amend *Work Choices* to ensure public holidays like ANZAC Day were guaranteed conditions so workers had a legal right to take the day off.

FAMILY FIRST will continue to lobby to ensure public holidays such as ANZAC Day are guaranteed.