



# Ray Williams MP

Member for Castle Hill

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier and Western Sydney

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES TO GO AHEAD IN CASTLE HILL

Groups of up to 100 people will be able to gather for Remembrance Day services in Castle Hill after the approval of a one-off exemption from COVID-19 restrictions.

“Remembrance Day is a major event for both veterans and the broader community to pay their respects to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country,” the Member for Castle Hill Ray Williams said.

“The easing of restrictions to public gatherings for Remembrance Day means wreath laying ceremonies and other memorial services can take place with up to 100 people present, to pay their respects to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.”

The one-off exemption to the Public Health Order increases the current restrictions from 20 people to 100 people, to gather at community war memorials, provided they adhere to social distancing measures and have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place.

Acting Minister for Veterans Geoff Lee said while some of our larger commemorations won't look the same as in past years, this exemption means smaller services can be held in all local communities across NSW.

“Australians have paused to reflect and pay tribute on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month since 1918, so this is welcome news for our veteran community,” said Mr Lee.

The exemption is in place for Remembrance Day Services held before 12 November. RSL NSW Acting President Ray James OAM thanked the NSW Government for lifting the restrictions to ensure services could go ahead safely.

“With this year's Anzac Day commemorations cancelled due to the pandemic, it is particularly meaningful for the veteran community to see Remembrance Day gatherings taking place,” Mr James said.

“Local Remembrance Day services have a significant role in regional and rural communities where the incidence of COVID-19 has been low in recent months.”

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