



Department of  
Education and Training

## *Media Statement*

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### **State colours for students on ANZAC tour**

Merredin Senior High School student Brady Flockart is one step closer to a life-changing tour to the Western Front, after receiving his official black and gold Premier's ANZAC Student Tour uniform from Education Minister Liz Constable.

The Year 10 student is part of a group of 12 secondary students from across Western Australia who will be travelling to France and Belgium this April, in what has become a popular history education program in the State.

Dr Constable said the students would pay tribute to the 18,000 soldiers who died at the Western Front, but whose remains have never been found.

"One of the many historic sites the tour group will visit will be Fromelles, where a mass grave of previously missing British and Australian soldiers has recently been found and will soon be recovered," Dr Constable said.

"The Western Front forms a crucial part of Australian history. It contributed greatly to the ANZAC legend and has significant links to many Western Australian families.

"As occurred during the Gallipoli campaign, Australia was to experience more loss of human life on the Western Front. However, the Australian experience on the Western Front also helped change the course of the war and shape our nation.

"The place names of Western Front battles, such as Fromelles, Pozieres and Villers Bretonneux, have now become as important in commemoration as they were in conflict.

"The students on the Premier's ANZAC Student Tour will have an opportunity to walk in the footsteps of the 313,000 Australian soldiers who fought at the front."

Dr Constable said Brady was involved in his school's extension program, participated in his class's entry into the 2008 Schools ANZAC Award, which earned State and national awards, and was a main presenter at his school's ANZAC ceremony.

"I was inspired to enter the Premier's ANZAC Student Tour competition after I visited the Canberra War Memorial, where I was amazed by how it was presented and by the number of names on the plaques," he said.

"I hope to visit my great-great uncle's grave in Belgium and if that happens, I'll be the first member of my family to do so."

Brady was named after his great-great uncle Mark D'Esterre Brady, a gunner for the 1st Field Artillery Brigade, who fought in Belgium and is buried in Ypres. He is also named after his great grandfather Ernest Roy Scott, a survivor of World War I, who served in the 28th battalion and fought in France.

In addition to meeting the Minister last Tuesday, the 2009 Premier's ANZAC Student Tour participants and the Department of Education and Training Director General Sharyn O'Neill attended morning tea with the WA Governor Dr Ken Michael AC, which was followed by lunch with RSL representatives at ANZAC House.

To secure his place on the tour, Brady completed a 1,000 word essay about the importance of ANZAC Day commemorations. Finalists then presented a five-minute speech on the topic and were interviewed by a panel of judges.

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