



Department of  
Education and Training

## *Media Statement*

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

Kelmscott Senior High School teacher Cathy Baron is one step closer to a life-changing tour to the Western Front, after receiving her official black and gold Premier's ANZAC Student Tour uniform from Education Minister Liz Constable.

The Head of Society Environment is one of four teachers and 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, 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 and teachers 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 Cathy was an excellent teacher who was also a teacher development centre coordinator (modern history), a DET representative on the Assessment, Review and Moderation Panel for Modern History, and was the humanities coordinator for the Academic Talent Program at her school.

"I am really looking forward to experiencing where history actually happened and to get a better understanding of the western front," Cathy said.

"By actually going to places I am able to gain a deeper understanding of the realness of it all and hopefully impart this to my students."

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 her place on the tour, Meghan had to complete 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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