Australians Urged to Fly the National Flag to Celebrate 100 Years

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Bruce Scott, today urged all Australians, whether they be at work, school, home, or play, to fly the national flag as a tribute to every Australian who has ever defended this country’s values and traditions.

"The Australian National Flag is our greatest national symbol and embodies the values enshrined in our constitution, which are the cornerstone of our democracy," Mr Scott said.

"Today as we mark 100 years of the Australian National Flag I urge all Australians, wherever they are, to fly the flag as a tribute to every Australian who has defended those values and to the courage of the Anzacs.

"Over the past 100 years more than one and half million Australians have served under the Australian National Flag and 102 000 Australians have died defending our national symbol during war and conflict.

"As a country we owe a great deal to those 102 000 men and women. Their service and sacrifice have given us the peace, the freedom, and the lifestyle we all take for granted today."

If the Australian National Flag is to continue to stand as a tribute to those who have defended our national symbol and the values and traditions it stands for, any attempts to change the flag must be opposed.

"The Liberal-National Government is committed to the Australian National Flag and passed legislation in 1996 to protect it, but the same cannot be said for the Australian Labor Party.

"The Labor spokesman for Veterans’ Affairs, Senator Chris Schacht, has repeatedly said he wants to change our national flag, and the Labor Party has no policy to protect the flag.

"A Labor Government would seek to change the Australian National Flag," he said.

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