

# Air Force Association

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The Hon Andrew Gee MP  
Minister for Veterans' Affairs  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear Minister

## **REVIEW OF AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM – CONTESTING ANZAC LEGEND**

The Air Force Association, like other major veterans' organisations, has serious concerns about the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority's latest review of the Australian Curriculum, in particular the section at page 63 on *the different historical interpretations and contested debates about the nature and significance of the ANZAC legend and WW1*.

The Association supports that history should be written based on actualities and the events be evaluated through the lens of the values at the time rather those of the present day. It is incumbent on those teaching this subject to ensure actions of the past are examined in a clear and understandable context of today's and yesterday's values. The world is a very different place when the ANZAC spirit was established, but the contexts of sacrifice, nation-building and selflessness need to be clearly expostulated when teaching the topic to the next inheritors of this history. What is not contestable is recognition of the courage and acceptance of duty to all servicemen and women on any battlefield.

Australia commemorates and not celebrates war, remembering and honouring the sacrifices of those who served and lives lost in the course of duty. Commemorations have a therapeutic value, especially for those who have been directly affected by the event. This level of detail is missing from the Curriculum.

The Air Force Association is a guardian of Australian military history and does not resist its re-evaluation provided it is based on fact and presented in a balanced way. As our Minister who supports Australia's veterans and their families, the Association seeks your support in ensuring our military history is accurately preserved and that any attempt to erode commemoration is

strenuously resisted. Please note, I have expressed these views to the Minister for Education and Youth.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carl Schiller".

Carl Schiller, OAM, CSM  
National President