

Anzac Day Amendment Bill

Government Bill

Explanatory note

General policy statement

The Anzac Day Act 1966 (the **Act**) provides for a day in commemoration of the part taken by New Zealand servicemen and servicewomen in 6 specified conflicts (from the South African War to the war in South Vietnam) and in memory of all those people who at any time have given their lives for New Zealand, the British Empire, or the Commonwealth of Nations. The day of commemoration is 25 April in each year.

The Government has decided that recognition and commemoration under the Act should be broader and more inclusive than it currently is. The Anzac Day Amendment Bill (the **Bill**) will amend the Act so that it covers other conflicts and persons who have served New Zealand in time of war or in warlike conflicts in the past and in the future that are not currently covered by the Act.

It is intended that the Act as amended by the Bill will recognise and commemorate—

- service by New Zealand service personnel in a variety of deployments, such as—
 - United Nations (**UN**) missions, multi-force groupings, or organisations (for example, the UN peacekeeping force on the Sinai Peninsula):
 - in Allied forces, where those forces participate or have participated in a war or warlike conflict involving New Zealand:
- New Zealand service personnel who die or who have died in training associated with wars or warlike conflicts:
- New Zealand residents and other persons who served in Allied forces in the 2 World Wars:
- military personnel from all Allied countries, as well as New Zealand, who participated in the first Allied landing of troops at Gallipoli:

- non-military service by New Zealand civilians in wars or warlike conflicts involving New Zealand, such as—
 - the Home Guard defending New Zealand:
 - medical personnel:
 - members of the Merchant Navy in the 2 World Wars:
 - members of the New Zealand civilian surgical team who served in the Vietnam conflict.

The Bill replaces section 2 of the Act to provide broader and more inclusive recognition and commemoration by—

- providing more generally that Anzac Day recognises and commemorates all those who have served New Zealand (including those who have died) in time of war and in warlike conflicts:
- clarifying that Anzac Day is the anniversary of the first landing of New Zealand and other Allied forces' troops on Gallipoli, not just troops from New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and Australia:
- providing a broad definition of warlike conflict, which is intended to cover nearly all operational service deployments involving the New Zealand Defence Force.

Departmental disclosure statement

The Ministry for Culture and Heritage and Veterans' Affairs New Zealand are required to prepare a disclosure statement to assist with the scrutiny of this Bill. The disclosure statement provides access to information about the policy development of the Bill and identifies any significant or unusual legislative features of the Bill.

A copy of the statement can be found at <http://legislation.govt.nz/disclosure.aspx?type=bill&subtype=government&year=2025&no=133>

Clause by clause analysis

Clause 1 is the Title clause.

Clause 2 provides that the Bill comes into force on the day after Royal assent.

Clause 3 provides that the Bill amends the Anzac Day Act 1966 (the **Act**).

Clause 4 replaces section 2 of the Act with a *new section 2*. Currently, section 2(1) provides that Anzac Day is to be a day of commemoration to recognise the participation of the New Zealand armed forces in 6 specified conflicts, as well as those who have given their lives for New Zealand, the British Empire, or the Commonwealth of Nations. Section 2(1) does not currently recognise all conflicts in which New Zealanders have participated.

New section 2 provides more generally that Anzac Day is to be a day of commemoration to recognise and commemorate the contribution of all those who have served New Zealand (including those who died) in time of war and in warlike conflicts. *New*

section 2 includes everyone who has served or will serve New Zealand during war and in warlike conflicts, in the past and in the future.

Hon Paul Goldsmith

Anzac Day Amendment Bill

Government Bill

Contents

	Page
1 Title	1
2 Commencement	1
3 Principal Act	1
4 Section 2 replaced (Anzac Day to be a day of commemoration)	1
2 Anzac Day to be day of commemoration	1

The Parliament of New Zealand enacts as follows:

- 1 Title**
This Act is the Anzac Day Amendment Act **2025**.
- 2 Commencement**
This Act comes into force on the day after Royal assent. 5
- 3 Principal Act**
This Act amends the Anzac Day Act 1966.
- 4 Section 2 replaced (Anzac Day to be a day of commemoration)**
Replace section 2 with:
 - 2 Anzac Day to be day of commemoration** 10
 - (1) In recognition and commemoration of the contribution of all those who have served New Zealand (including those who died) in time of war and in warlike conflicts, 25 April in each year (being the anniversary of the first landing of troops from New Zealand and other allied forces on Gallipoli) is to be known as Anzac Day, and is to be a day of commemoration. 15

- (2) In this section, a person serves in a **warlike conflict** if they serve in response to an armed conflict that has occurred, is occurring, or may occur or recur.