

ANZAC DAY AMENDMENT BILL 2015
ANZAC DAY AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 2015

Second Reading — Cognate Debate

Resumed from 25 February.

HON SALLY TALBOT (South West) [7.58 pm]: Thank you, Madam Deputy President. That is something for the record! I do not usually make the business of the house grind to a halt within 12 seconds. I would have thought Hon Michael Mischin would have had enough time this afternoon to practise that little intervention that he was required to make.

Hon Ken Travers: They can't answer questions, and they can't move motions when they need to! They've had a bad day.

Hon SALLY TALBOT: It makes us wonder what on earth is going on over there. I think they are just asleep at the wheel, basically.

Hon Ken Travers: A government that needs to be changed!

Hon SALLY TALBOT: Perhaps they are just very, very excited about —

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order, members! I do not recall giving everyone a free-for-all. Hon Sally Talbot has the call.

Hon SALLY TALBOT: Thank you, Madam Deputy President. I think they are just very, very excited about the reshuffle that is coming up. I can understand why they are all so excited, because this bill creates a transfer of power from the Treasurer to the new Minister for Veterans, who of course is a minister in the other place. I was expecting Hon Michael Mischin to jump to his feet, because the briefing note that I have been provided with actually states that these two bills will be debated cognately. So, I was giving him a bit of time, but it did not happen.

Now that we all know what we are doing, I want to make a few comments about the bill. I was going to start off by saying nice things about the government, and I am in such a good mood tonight that I might say them anyway. Sometimes the government proceeds in the right direction and I think there is no doubt we would all agree that the old act was broken and this bill effectively fixes it. I understand that the old act was not just broken; it had fallen into some kind of—I do not know. Where do old acts go when we are not using them anymore? There must be some sort of knacker's yard where all the old acts are hanging out. It feels like these guys on the government benches have been there now for years and years. It must be a couple of decades. It feels like a couple of decades. The government finally decided to fix this. I know that every veteran in the state and the families of every veteran in the state will be very glad that the government finally found the will to make these changes. This effectively brings the old Anzac Day legislation into the twenty-first century, and that is a very good thing.

I will briefly outline the provisions of the bill. As I have already referred to, the Minister for Veterans will replace the Treasurer in having carriage of the funds that are raised from the levy associated with this bill. We need to consider two bills here because a taxation bill is associated with the Anzac Day Amendment Bill 2015. It has been deemed a taxation bill. It imposes a tax. It is the levy of the payments that go into the trust fund. We had a trust fund before. The Anzac Day Trust is continuing, but the arrangements relating to that trust fund have quite substantially changed. I think it is reasonable to say that we think that in general those are very sensible changes to be making. I am sure that Hon Darren West in his more substantial contribution to this debate will canvass all these points in much more detail than I will now.

There will be a revamping of the trust fund. We will have things such as a change in the arrangements for the people who administer the trust. I have reflected on many, many occasions in debates in this place about the government's failure to quite grasp what constitutes a conflict of interest. I remember at one stage in a certain context, which escapes me now, referring government members to a document that was on the home page of the Corruption and Crime Commission website, which was quite a lengthy explanatory document about how to deal with conflicts of interest. I suggested that government members read that material so that they could have a better handle on it. The situation up to this point had potential for conflicts of interest in that the people sitting on the board of the trust could be the same people in receipt of funds. So there was a potential conflict of interest, not that one has ever been identified. I hasten to add, and I think that is important. The government acknowledges that there is no implication of impropriety of any sort. Nonetheless, the new arrangements obviously move us into a place where the twenty-first century expectations about transparency are fulfilled. Nobody with a financial interest in the outcomes of the determinations of the trust will be able to take part in deliberations about where the money goes. Substantial amounts of money are involved. I obtained documents as

a result of the briefing; I must confess that I was not able to attend the briefing, but documents were made available to me subsequently. One of those documents refers to quite substantial amounts of money. The two largest amounts were \$129 000 each to Perth Legacy and the Returned and Services League of Australia WA Branch. Other amounts are much less significant than that; nevertheless, amounts of \$9 000 went to the Defence Force Welfare Association, \$4 500 to the 2/16th Australian Infantry Battalion Association and \$20 000 to Soldier On WA. I am sure that my colleagues will have other things to say about the recipients of that money. That was the 2015 distribution of funds from the Anzac Day Trust. It makes eminent sense to have that potential for a conflict of interest removed entirely.

The bill also has other provisions that simply, I suggest, reflect the fact that it is now 2016. We celebrated the centenary of Anzac just over a year ago, and I do not know whether you, Madam Deputy President, were in Albany that day, but celebrating the centenary was a very, very special day for Albany. I know Hon Robyn McSweeney was there. I have observed during previous debates in this place that Albany has never looked as good as it did on that day. It is a beautiful place. It is a beautiful place even for the 360 days of the year it is raining, but on that particular weekend the whole weekend looked like a picture book. It was a very, very moving occasion to be there for that celebration of the centenary of the Anzacs departing the harbour. It is now 2016 and it makes sense, for example, to increase the penalties associated with a failure to comply with the provisions of the act and the regulations from \$400 to \$5 000 and contravention of regulations from \$100 to \$1 000. That is far more in line with contemporary expectations about the rate of penalties.

There is one provision in this bill that relates to the time people are given to provide statutory declarations about the amount of money they have raised from Anzac Day functions. I am not sure why. The way I am reading it is that it has increased from 30 days to 90 days. I would have thought these days with the online submission of documents we can now sign a document, scan it and have it to the person who needs to receive it within a matter of minutes. I am not sure why we have blown that out from one month to three months. Perhaps the minister with the carriage of the bill can comment on that in his response to the second reading debate.

The original act contained a provision for all the proceeds that were distributed from the trust fund to go to improvements to homes of ex-servicemen and their families. Obviously that was a very sensible provision when the fund was established, but it is a little less relevant in 2016 than it might have been in previous decades. Clearly, the wider use of the funds is appropriate.

I do not know whether some of my colleagues on this side of the house who have a professional association with the retail trades want to comment on the fact that we are now effectively dispensing with Sunday. I know that that is a modern phenomenon that is felt to be quite a substantial disadvantage to some workers in our community. This bill provides that no exemptions will be made regarding the contributions to the trust fund when Anzac Day falls on a Sunday, which has previously been the case. I do not want to pre-empt anyone's contribution to the debate, but I suspect it is less of an issue with this bill than it might be with other provisions.

I guess the substance of the legislation and the most important change, apart from the creation of a new minister and the change in the way the trust fund is administered, is that we will move from a system that requires between 60 per cent and 100 per cent of net proceeds from events held on Anzac Day to be contributed to the trust fund to five per cent—a completely different formula—of a prescribed adult general admission ticket price multiplied by the number of people in attendance. It is not such a complicated formula if you get your head around it. We have asked for concrete examples of what the government has in mind. The examples that have been provided to us are that the formula would be applied if, for instance, a substantial number of people attended a sporting match—perhaps a cricket match or a rugby match—and the floor was reached. For the purposes of this bill, the floor has been set at 5 000, so the provisions do not apply unless an event has 5 001 people or more attend.

A couple of questions arise from that provision. An amendment that addresses this point is sitting on the notice paper, to be moved by Hon Darren West who has carriage of these bills on our behalf. The only two types of event that are covered in the legislation are sporting events and racing. We are not quite clear why those restrictions have been put on the bills. As my colleagues will refer to later in the debate, the question is: what if there was a big concert on Anzac Day? I was in Bunbury on Saturday night and there was a huge beach concert. I congratulate the local police and the City of Bunbury for the way that was organised. My hotel room looked out onto the main street in Bunbury and the only thing that woke me up at two o'clock in the morning was people saying, "We have to be quiet", a little more loudly than they might have done had they not had the benefit of a large amount of tequila. Nevertheless, it was all extremely orderly. I particularly noticed that they even had lollipop people to supervise the crossings on Koombana Drive. I thought having lollipop people seeing them backwards and forwards across the road was incredibly sensible because there was a large number of young people and a substantial amount of tequila, or whatever the alcohol of choice was. What if one of those events was on Anzac Day? It is, after all, a public holiday. Why would we not want to ask for a contribution towards the Anzac Day Trust from that event? My colleague, Hon Darren West, will canvass that point in more detail when

we come to his contribution and perhaps even go into Committee of the Whole to nut this out. There is a question about that restriction on the type of events that are included.

I have another question that I think is very important. I have just given honourable members some idea about where that money currently goes; they are all very worthy causes. I would like some indication about whether the total amount of money that will be collected is going to increase significantly. I hope it is not going to decrease significantly. If that is the case, I am sure that we would want to look at tweaking that formula whereby five per cent of the ticket price is essentially multiplied by the number of people who are at the event. Reading the provisions of this bill indicates that some kind of prior notice is required. An event cannot be set up and it is then decided after the event what people will pay. What happens if some kind of weather stops the event going ahead or substantially reduces the number of people who turn up? What will happen then in terms of what has been agreed? What if attendance falls below 5 000 people? That is not entirely clear from my reading of the bill as it stands at the moment.

They are the main provisions of the bill. As I said, substantial amounts of money are involved. It is very important that we get this right because it is not just a charitable exercise; it is about maintaining the dignity and solemnity of Anzac Day. It is a fascinating phenomenon and I am not sure that anybody is able to really describe what is going on. Perhaps 30 years ago, attendances at Anzac Day ceremonies were pretty low. All of a sudden, community interest has grown exponentially. I particularly remember a few years ago when a former staffer of mine decided that she would take her family to an Anzac Day ceremony for the first time. She had kids in their mid-teens and they decided that they would go to the service in Kings Park. She was pretty confident that, because she was a staffer here and had access to the car park, she would not have to get up at three o'clock in the morning in order to secure a parking spot. Of course, she arrived to find that the entire parliamentary precinct was parked out because some charities even raise money from the parking on Anzac Day. We now have thousands and thousands of people at all these ceremonies. My colleague in the other place, Hon Peter Watson, the member for Albany, who had carriage of the bill down there spoke about our Albany dawn service. Hon Robyn McSweeney would be very familiar with that. Again, I believe that people have to arrive by 2.00 or 3.00 am in order to get a possie there. It is a very interesting and relatively recent phenomenon. I think it adds weight to what is clearly one of the defining moments in the Australian character. So when we play with the provisions in these bills, we have to get it right; we have to make sure that the dignity of the occasion is maintained and that we are paying proper respect to such an important day in our year.

With those comments, Madam Deputy President, I am going to leave my remarks. I look forward to, perhaps, going into committee stage later and making more of a contribution then.

HON DARREN WEST (Agricultural) [8.16 pm]: I rise tonight as the opposition's lead speaker on the Anzac Day Amendment Bill 2015 and the Anzac Day Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2015. Early in my contribution, I will point out that the opposition supports this legislation, although, as has been previously mentioned, on close scrutiny there may be a couple of small areas that we need to investigate and debate more fully during the bills' passage through the house.

These bills are sensible pieces of legislation. It is a refreshing change from the Barnett Liberal–National government to have legislation that makes sense to everyone who reads it. I will get to some of the implications of these bills later in my contribution, but I think that everyone everywhere has the greatest of respect for our service men and women and for our veterans. Certainly, if there is anything we can do as a Parliament and as legislators to make their situation—the trusts and the funding arrangements for the trusts—more contemporary, of course, we would look favourably on that, provided that all stakeholders, and in this case the beneficiaries of the trust, are satisfied that these changes will benefit them. Of course, then we would support such legislation.

We are here to debate changes or amendments to the Anzac Day Act 1960. Thinking back to 1960, I know it is not the same for everybody, but I was not alive in 1960. Hon Stephen Dawson and Hon Kate Doust were not alive either! Hon Samantha Rowe was certainly not alive in 1960. Quite a lot of us in this house were not around when the act came into being. Some 56 years later, it is an opportune time to review that act and make it more contemporary by bringing the conditions of 2016 into the legislation.

Thinking back to 1960, a lot of change was going on in the servicemen and servicewomen's associations. The Second World War had been finished for 15 years, and we had had Korea, and we were about to embark on a military campaign in Vietnam. There was a lot of conjecture among the returned servicemen and servicewomen's community about the legitimacy of some of these campaigns. My grandfather spoke to me a lot about how it was in the Returned and Services League of Australia in those times when people who had returned from different campaigns were not treated the same. It was a difficult time for the RSL community. We have moved on from there and the Anzac Day Act has served us reasonably well. The idea of the trust was to provide housing for returned service people and their families in the instance that fallen service peoples' families were able to access money from the trust. It was a suitable way to compensate those who had given, for us. I was not quite sure where to work this into my contribution, but only last month in this house we were debating changes

to the way that the Housing Authority treats income paid to its tenants. Many of us were appalled to find that allowances paid to veterans would fall under the Barnett government's cash grab. That was most disappointing, and I hope that will be changed and will not be the case for all the veterans who may receive benefits for their service. I do not think that should be counted as income in determining their Homeswest rent. We will talk about that more, I am sure, later on in Parliament, but I want to point out now that although it is good that the government is making these changes, there is always a catch with this government.

As I indicated, the trust was constituted under the Anzac Day Act 1960 to provide funds for the benefit of ex-service personnel and their families. At that stage it was deemed—I am not sure of the thinking of the day—that Sundays were exempt from activities. I guess in 1960, Sunday was certainly a day on which very little happened. There were few organised events around that time; it was the day off, the Sabbath. We have moved on. Although we still respect our weekends, which have been hard fought for, we accept that a lot more events happen on Sundays, certainly more than they did in 1960.

In those times there was a quaint arrangement by which an event that was held in the metropolitan area paid into the trust 60 per cent of net proceeds. There was no hard and fast rule as to how that was calculated; it was pretty much an honour system and organisations would do the right thing and correctly calculate the net proceeds of an event: 60 per cent from a metropolitan event and 100 per cent from a regional event. I am still not sure why there would have been that difference between regional and metropolitan events, and maybe someone can point that out to me later in the debate. The money was contributed to the trust. With these changes to the bill, which I think are sensible, there will be a five per cent charge on ticket prices for events such as the footy or a race meeting, or any large sporting event that is held on Anzac Day where 5 000 people or more attend. That will be calculated and, as Hon Sally Talbot said, organisations will have 90 days to comply with that requirement.

[Quorum formed.]

Hon DARREN WEST: I find it quite extraordinary that while we are debating these Anzac Day bills that the government is unable to find its members.

Several members interjected.

Hon DARREN WEST: It is the job of government to provide the quorum.

Several members interjected.

Hon DARREN WEST: It is a government bill!

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! We now have a quorum, so let us take a deep breath.

Hon DARREN WEST: I note that some political organisations in this place are not represented here at all on what I think is such an important matter. I think it is very disrespectful that some political organisations are not represented here at all.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! The consideration before the house is the Anzac Day amendment bills. It is a cognate debate and Hon Darren West has the call.

Hon DARREN WEST: As I was saying before the quorum was called, the formula for contributing funds to the trust will be different from the formula that was previously in place. There was an obscure way of calculating the amount to be paid to the trust, with 60 per cent from metropolitan events and 100 per cent from regional events. It was onerous in that it required a sense of goodwill in correctly calculating the net proceeds. This bill provides for a calculation of five per cent of the price of an adult admission ticket. That is more sensible and will be easy to calculate. The bill allows time for organisations to do the necessary paperwork. They will have 90 days to get all the information together on ticket sales. It is five per cent on all adult ticket sales, so there needs to be time to determine how many tickets were for adults and how many for children. We are not sure about concession tickets, but we expect that concession tickets are exempt. We will ask some questions a little later about whether a pensioner is classed as an "adult". We will find out a little more about that further in the debate. That makes eminently more sense.

I have not been able to find out, and I look forward to learning later in the debate, what amount of money has been paid into the trust and from whom. We have not had any projected forecasts about how that may change under this bill, and what are the projected forecasts for revenue for the trust under these changes. I expect significantly more revenue will go into the trust fund as a consequence of these changes, but I have been unable to find that information and I look forward to receiving that. That is fairly important. I know this government does not have a great eye for detail when it comes to finances, but I thought that that modelling would have been most useful in debating this legislation. I look forward to hearing that. Once again, the government does not have its ducks in a row, so to speak, when it comes to finances.

The formula will be applied uniformly to events held in the metropolitan and regional areas, which is important; it will be the same for everybody. It was certainly an issue for me that regional events had to pay 100 per cent of net proceeds, while metropolitan events paid 60 per cent. It is a more sensible approach that all events pay the same and will apply only to professional sporting or racing events with a minimum of 5 000 people attending. I think that is also important to note, because there was a sense that the old act, the Anzac Day Act 1960, was a discouragement to some organisations to hold events on Anzac Day, especially in regional areas where they had to give 100 per cent of net proceeds to the trust. That will be verified later when I learn who has contributed and how much has been contributed to the trust. It is important that we encourage people to get out and about and enjoy and celebrate Anzac Day for what it is—a day of remembrance—and that sporting events are held after one o'clock. It is most important that that time be observed. The morning is for ceremonies and parades and remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice, those who were wounded and those who served. And then, after one o'clock, we can collectively celebrate Anzac Day in whatever sporting pursuit we see fit and some of the funds from that large sporting event, whether it be the football or races or any other sporting event, will go into the Anzac Day Trust to benefit veterans. That is a quite sensible approach.

The bill also refers to alternative methods for determining contributions. I will speak more on this later, but I think it is sensible for the minister to have the capacity to negotiate with organisations for which there may be a different set of circumstances. Just as in 1960 the Anzac Day Act did not consider the circumstances of 2016, which is understandable, as we sit here in 2016, maybe something that happens in 2050 may not be at the front of our minds as we debate this. Certainly this bill will give the minister, whoever the minister may be, some capacity to perhaps agree with an organisation on the amount it needs to contribute to the trust.

Hon Sally Talbot pointed out something that I certainly picked up fairly early while reading the legislation and scrutinising it, which is what we are here to do. For example, what would happen if a metropolitan race club had free admission on Anzac Day, which would be plausible? It would certainly be popular with members of the public to watch the races after one o'clock on Anzac Day. Because there would be no admission charge, five per cent of zero is zero and no money would be paid to the trust. There could be quite a large crowd. The club may decide to get its revenue from sponsorships, from arrangements with catering organisations or through the bar. There would be an avenue for the minister—I propose to make a change to the bill by way of an amendment—to say to the relevant organisation, “You’re going to have over 5 000 people. There will be no charge. It’s on Anzac Day. We think that you should make a contribution to the Anzac Day Trust. How about making a contribution?” That is also important. We need to think about what may happen in the future. I know that a lot of regional race clubs—I accept that they have under 5 000 patrons in most cases—often have free race days in an attempt to try to get as many members of the public as possible to the races to enjoy a day out, see all the people in their finery and enjoy a good social day out. It is a good community-building activity. Maybe that could be the way of the future—for race clubs to encourage more patrons onto the course by offering cheaper or even free entry. Let us have a think about that. We would not like to think in that instance that there was a way around, intentionally or otherwise, being able to provide some money to the Anzac Day Trust.

We need to debate these two bills cognately because one of them will impose a tax. We accept that we need two pieces of legislation to amend the act. As has been pointed out, we can debate those cognately so there is no need to have two debates. The Minister for Commerce was a little recalcitrant in moving that they be debated cognately, but we got there in the end.

That is the basic outline of the bill. I also have a briefing note with a bit of background on the bill. On 7 September 2015—we are going back about six months—cabinet approved the drafting of legislation to amend the Anzac Day Act to ensure that it is relevant to the current veteran community. Cabinet was keen to get the bill through the house before Anzac Day. We will do that, although the government has cut it reasonably fine. We have only three parliamentary sitting weeks until Anzac Day. We will get it through, but I do not think it was a great priority. It is important that the legislation is passed before the upcoming Anzac Day of 2016, which is the centenary of many military events and battles in Australia’s history. We certainly hold our military history very highly. Many of the most significant events in Australian history are military events, battles and campaigns that we fought generally overseas, but in some small ways, especially in the Second World War, here in Australia.

I have touched on some of the changes listed on this briefing note but I wish to formally put them on the record. I queried the fact that formal responsibility for the act will be transferred from the Treasurer to the Minister for Veterans. The Governor approved the transfer of the act on 30 September 2015. If it was good enough for the Governor, it is good enough for us. I understand that the veterans’ community had no formal objection to that. I think it is fair to say that we did not have a Minister for Veterans in 1960. I guess Treasury was seen as the best place for funds to be administered and kept. I will be asking a few more probing questions about how that whole arrangement will work. I note that the cost of the administration of the trust funds was borne by Treasury. I hope that that remains the case. I think that remains the case, but we will certainly push that through. Whilst the trust

has always paid for its own audit, I would not like to think that the trust was responsible for all of its own administration, otherwise a large number of funds that would be better returned to the service community would be chewed up in the administration of the trust, which, as we know, can be quite expensive. We will see how that goes. I think the intent of the act is that the administration of the trust will not be borne by the trust itself.

Contributions to the trust will apply to a much smaller number of events but they will be significant events. They will apply to professional sporting and racing events with a minimum attendance of 5 000 people. At the most, that would be two or three events a year in Western Australia. I note that even though many organisations do not have that 5 000 member threshold, they have contributed to the trust in the past. I will talk more about some of those organisations. I think it is fantastic, especially in the regions, when small communities get together, hold an event and kick a few hundred dollars into the Anzac Day Trust tin. That is to be commended and encouraged. I hope that continues in the future. Small events have the right to contribute to the Anzac Day Trust should they so wish. I certainly encourage more community groups to do that.

The current requirement that 60 to 100 per cent of net proceeds be contributed to the trust fund is unrealistic; I agree with that. Five per cent of the prescribed adult general admission ticket price multiplied by the number of people in attendance will apply to professional sporting and racing events. I have touched on that, so I will not go into it in any more detail. As I pointed out before, it takes away the metropolitan versus country divide. To me, as a country regional member, it is certainly important that we have equity across many more things in our lives, but certainly on this one it makes a whole lot of sense. As I pointed out earlier, provision will exist for the minister to approve an alternative contribution to the trust by the organiser of an event. The organisers must write to the minister 30 days in advance of the event to have that discussion. I think that is eminently sensible as well. I would hope that the organisers would want to contribute more to the trust than perhaps they envisaged, but there are things such as weather events and there may be different circumstances in the future; for instance, there may be a greater number of people with concessions or events that have a lot more children at them. They may have a different set of parameters and the minister may want to have a discussion with the event organiser. I think that is eminently sensible as well. As I pointed out, what about free events that have large numbers, yet the organisation still makes a profit through sponsorship, the bar or arrangements with caterers et cetera? I think in those examples there would need to be some level of flexibility for the minister to suggest that if donation tins or such like are kept at the gate, instead of people paying a fee to get in, they could donate a gold coin or perhaps something bigger. Other arrangements may be made in the case of free events. That would be a small but important change.

When Anzac Day falls on a Sunday, no exemption is made regarding contributions to the trust fund. That is important as well. In the past, anything that was held on a Sunday was exempt. We now quite enjoy, especially for me as a very proud Collingwood supporter, the Collingwood–Essendon Anzac Day clash —

Hon Ken Travers: You were doing so well!

Hon DARREN WEST: The Collingwood–Essendon Anzac Day clash means a lot to me on many levels. It symbolises the “battle”—I put that in inverted commas because it certainly is not a battle as we know it when we talk about Anzac Day—between two of our greatest footy clubs that we enjoy every year. I know that Fremantle Football Club is now having games on Anzac Day and I am sure others will as well. Anzac Day is a day that we all savour, whatever day of the year it falls on. We take that day to celebrate and remember all the conflicts across the world in which those service men and women have served, have been wounded or lost their lives. It is important that everyone on Anzac Day appreciates the sense of community, because, after all, those men and women were fighting for the quality of the lifestyle we have in Western Australia. That is why they went to battle to fight, so that we could have a better life. Now that we have that lifestyle, it is important that we get out and share it and enjoy it with each other, whether that is a large or a small sporting event, or at the races after one o’clock. That is important, but I also think it is important that we contribute financially to the trust while we do it, because, after all, they are the reason we are here. I think it is important that there is no exemption on a Sunday. I have calculated that Anzac Day will fall on a Sunday every sixth year, so why not have Sunday the same as the other days? It makes some level of sense, and we will support that.

The provision that has caused some ripple of consternation from the ex-service organisations community is the make-up of the trustees. In the past there has been a Treasury representative and three trustees, generally from ex-service organisations. That makes some sense to me if those organisations are going to be recipients of the trust, and a broader range of organisations can apply to the trust. I can understand that there will be some in the ex-service community who will feel as though they are being a little left out of the process, but I do not think we can have the appropriate checks and balances if we have ex-service organisations represented. Let us keep it independent and fair, in consultation with the minister. I think that will work, and if there are problems along the way, I am sure they can be dealt with in the fullness of time. I think there is some level of sense in that, despite some reservations. The other change I noticed—I think there is a second amendment about this—is that now the trustees are appointed by the minister and ratified by cabinet. That is a more standard way of appointing boards

in government. The Governor is now no longer involved in this process, as far as I understand, and I will look forward to some further debate about how that may work. Now that we have a Minister for Veterans, and I am sure that will continue into the future, there may be some discussion about the selection of the trustees. I am told that the trustees will be eminent persons, which leaves a little bit of conjecture about what constitutes an eminent person, but I do not think that we will get into that level of detail. I am sure that we can find, outside the ex-service community, suitable and eminent members for the Anzac Day Trust. I am sure that we can do that, and I hope there is a satisfactory outcome for everyone.

The trust's funds were once set aside to improve homes for ex-servicemen and their families, and now the list of recipients of the funds is much broader. It can be widened to include any proposal that benefits veterans or their families, and that is only military veterans. That is a good idea. There are a whole lot of programs and things that we can do that help people, and I will mention those a bit further into my contribution.

The time to provide statutory declarations of proceeds raised on Anzac Day is increased from 30 to 90 days. As I touched on briefly, that makes some sense, so that the appropriate accounting can be done. Usually a big event involves a lot of organisation and a lot of work both before and after the event. The sooner the better, but there is now the capacity to take 90 days to get the paperwork in order and the statutory declaration lodged.

The penalties have increased significantly for contraventions of the legislation. I cannot for the life of me think why anyone would try to not fulfil their obligations to the Anzac Day Trust. I cannot imagine any organisation wanting to do that, but should that be the case, the penalties are increased from \$400 to \$5 000 and, for contravention of the regulations, from \$100 to \$1 000. They are reasonable deterrents for people to not do the wrong thing. I would have thought that the Anzac Day Trust would be self-regulatory, but I accept that from time to time we need to have some level of deterrence.

The Anzac Day Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2015, which we are discussing cognately with the Anzac Day Amendment Bill 2015, results from the fact that it was identified that the requirements for organisations to make contributions to the trust constitutes the imposition of a tax and as such the provisions imposing this tax are contained in Anzac Day Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2015. It still amends the Anzac Day Act 1960, but we have one bill that makes changes to the way the trust operates and who benefits, and we need to have a separate bill for the imposition of a tax, which effectively we are now doing by charging five per cent on adult admission tickets to large events. That makes eminent sense, and the opposition would be supportive of that.

I have done some research into this bill, and I want to run through a few things and make a few comments. Hon Sally Talbot touched on this briefly but I will, as she indicated, go into some level of detail. I do not come from the background of a military family, unlike many members of the other place. I think there are a few here as well in different capacities, but I was quite impressed with the list of recipients of funds from the Anzac Day Trust. The 2/16th Battalion AIF Association received \$4 500 from the trust; the 2/28th Battalion and 24th Anti-Tank Company Welfare Fund received \$2 000; the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion AIF Ex-Members Association received \$2 000; the Allied Merchant Seamen received \$2 000; the British Ex-Services Association received \$1 500; and the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam Association received \$800. I am sure that was put to good use and that these amounts are meaningful for these organisations, to help in their running. The Defence Force Welfare Association received \$9 000 in 2015; the Ex-Prisoners of War Association of Western Australia received \$2 500; the Extremely Disabled War Veterans and Partners Association received \$300; the Far East Strategic Reserve Navy received \$2 400 in 2015; Her Majesty's Australian Ship Canberra received \$1 600; the Navy Club received \$3 327; the Partners of Veterans Association received \$14 295; Perth Legacy was the equal largest recipient with \$129 000; and, the Returned and Services League of Australia, WA branch, also received \$129 000. Significant contributions were made to those very worthy organisations. The Royal Australian Air Force Association (WA Div) Inc received \$10 000 and the Royal Australian Artillery Association received \$1000. Soldier On WA, is a very worthwhile organisation. I met a man, whose name I do not recall, riding a bike all around Australia trying to raise money for Soldier On and I made a donation. That organisation received \$20 000 from the trust, and I think that is important. The Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen and Women WA Branch received \$5 600; the Vietnam Logistics Support Association received \$2 000; the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, Western Australian branch, received \$4 685; the Western Australian Partners of Veterans Association receive \$6 987; and the final recipient from the trust was the War Widows' Guild, which received \$5 000. That all adds up to \$359 494. It is a significant amount to help veterans in many different organisations and capacities. Of course the Labor Party thinks that is wonderful. It would be good to give more.

I have before me a document titled "Report On Funds Available For Distribution In 2015". The balance brought forward from 2014 was \$74. The state government provides an annual grant of \$300 000 and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet provides \$35 000. As members can see, the state is a significant contributor to the fund. The amount of \$6 696 was accrued in interest. Sporting and racing contributions were made. The Fremantle Dockers, or the Australian Football League, put \$15 000 into the fund. The Burracoppin Football Club, in the

Agricultural Region, made a contribution. Burracoppin is very famous as the starting point of the original rabbit-proof fence. The Burracoppin Football Club was able to dig into its pockets and generate \$486 from an event that it held. It donated that to the Anzac Day Trust, which is fantastic. The Warnbro Bowling Club contributed \$300. The Kwinana Golf Club contributed \$1 181 —

Hon Stephen Dawson: This is like Telethon.

Hon DARREN WEST: It is a bit like Telethon. I was thinking the same thing, Hon Stephen Dawson. They are both worthy causes.

Hon Ken Travers interjected.

Hon DARREN WEST: They would be, yes; absolutely so.

Greyhounds WA contributed \$9 496 from an event that it held. The Kalamunda Eastern Suns basketball club raised \$110. It is a great effort that a small suburban basketball club can see in its heart to go on a fundraising drive and generate \$110 to put into the Anzac Day Trust. All those donations added up to \$26 573, which gives a grand total of \$368 343. After audit fees of \$5 280 were taken out, that left \$363 063, which is slightly more than the amount allocated—by about \$4 000, from my simple maths.

It is significant that there were no deductions from the trust for its administration. I understand those costs were borne by Treasury. I hope that those costs continue to be borne by Treasury. We will certainly be pushing that through. As members can see, a significant amount of money was raised by those organisations, predominantly from the state government. I hope in the future that the funds raised will come from a broader range of events and there will be significant contributions from live sporting events and the races. Of course those contributions will come from the general public. I do not think anyone in the general public would at all mind contributing to the Anzac Day Trust.

I have just read through the second reading speech given in the other place and in this place. The Anzac Day Amendment Bill 2015 replaces all references to “Treasurer” with “minister”. That allows for the fact that the act has been transferred to the Minister for Veterans. The Anzac Day Trust will benefit ex-service personnel and their families. It removes the stipulation that funds are to be applied to the preservation, alteration and improvement of homes for ex-service personnel, which I have touched on and agree with. Funds may be applied, with the approval of the minister, for any purpose that benefits ex-service personnel and their families. I have no problems at all with that. The opposition would support all of those things.

Contributions to the Anzac Day Trust are required when a sporting or racing event takes place on Anzac Day. I have explained what happens currently and what it will change to. An example was given in the second reading speech that makes it eminently sensible for people. For an Australian Rules football game held at Domain Stadium or another stadium, an admission ticket may be prescribed in regulations as an adult general admission ticket, whereas for a cricket match at the Western Australian Cricket Association ground, an admission ticket may be prescribed as a general admission east bank ticket. The benchmark will be an unobstructed general admission ticket for an adult. I do not know about a concession ticket, but we will talk about that later because that could be a significant contribution. I am sure concession holders would not at all mind five per cent of the proceeds of their tickets going to the trust. I understand why we would have a different set of circumstances for children, but we will pursue that later. The formula will apply uniformly.

It is important to note that it is not the government’s intention to make junior or amateur sports subject to the conditions of the act relating to the trust. Small community events will go ahead as normal. There will not be any requirement for those organisations to contribute. However, I think it would be a nice touch if they did. I will bat on about that a few times. I want to get the message out that should attendances at an event held on Anzac Day fall below 5 000 people, they could make a contribution and help our ex-service personnel through the Anzac Day Trust. That contribution would be gratefully accepted and would be gratefully given as well.

There are also differences in the time that is allowed. The second reading speech states —

In order to ensure that governance arrangements for the trust meet current community expectations, the bill removes the requirement for a trustee to be drawn from each of the Returned and Services League, Perth Legacy and another, rotating, Western Australian ex-service organisation. Instead, the bill specifies that all four of the trustees cannot be members or employees of ex-service organisations, to ensure that a distinction exists with members of potential recipient organisations.

I have canvassed that. That is a reasonable thing, although, as I have indicated, there has been a bit of reservation from a few within the service community. Let us see how it goes. I hope it works out; if not, we will have another look at that.

The exemption that previously applied to Sundays is removed, such that when Anzac Day falls on a Sunday, contributions to the trust are required as per any other day of the week. That is significant because if there is

a football match or a race meeting, it could equally be held on a Tuesday. We observe Anzac Day on the day, unlike some holidays that we make a Monday or a Friday to fit in with our lifestyle. Of course Anzac Day is above that. It is important that we celebrate it on 25 April, whatever day it falls on. We treat every day as equal. That makes a good level of sense. It is very important that we observe that no events, including sporting events, are held before 1.00 pm to allow the traditional observance of Anzac Day morning.

Hon Rick Mazza: Are the fines high enough, honourable member? Four hundred dollars in 1960 is a lot more than \$5 000 now.

Hon DARREN WEST: I touched on the fines, Hon Rick Mazza. I think the fines are a suitable deterrent. I think it would take a special sort of person—the type I do not think I have ever met—to deliberately try to diddle the Anzac Day Trust fund. I think we will find those large events would be easily identified and that the right thing would be done. There would be only two or three of them a year. I do not think anyone would premeditate trying to rip off the Anzac Day Trust fund. One could be fairly safe in the knowledge that larger race clubs, the AFL and organisers of large sporting events on Anzac Day will do the right thing. That will be policed. I think \$5 000 is a high enough fine. We could talk about moving an amendment, but I certainly think that is a suitable deterrent.

I have a rather large electorate, and I have contact from time to time with many of the Returned and Services League of Australia sub-branches in my electorate. There are a lot of them. The RSL club with which I probably have the most contact is the Geraldton City sub-branch at Birdwood House. Ian Heberle, the president, Steve Butler, the secretary, and Mike Marsh, the treasurer, do a great job. If members are ever in Geraldton, they should take the time to visit the Geraldton RSL club. It has one of the best small military museums I have seen. The Leader of the Opposition and the member for Warnbro, who are both ex-servicemen, and the member for Victoria Park, Ben Wyatt, who is an Army Reserve officer, have been to that museum and have spent some time talking to the guys at that club. They have done a fantastic job, and it is great to have a chat with those guys.

I also have quite a connection with the Northam RSL club. It might surprise members to find out where many of the RSL clubs are located. A lot of the wheatbelt towns have an RSL memorial hall and swimming pool. A lot of those pools were put in after the Second World War. When we look at the names on the honour rolls of the people who lost their lives and equate that with the size of those towns in those times, we can see the amazing contribution that many of the small wheatbelt communities made. I live in Jennacubbine, which is where the 10th Light Horse Regiment left from. Hugo Throssell amassed a heap of troops to go with their horses to the Middle East, in the belief that they would come back with their horses. However, sadly, only one horse returned. In 1914, Western Australia was experiencing one of the biggest droughts that this state had ever seen, and many of the young men took their horses with them to the campaign in the Middle East because they thought their horses would get fed and watered. In my small community of Jennacubbine, which is now reduced to just two houses, a wheat bin, a pub and a hall, there is a very special memorial to the men and pioneers of the district who left in early 1915 to fight in the war.

Hon Kate Doust: There would be a few Leeson's up there!

Hon DARREN WEST: There would be a few Leeson's, certainly—all those old names of people who have lived in that area for a long time, many of whom were lost in various campaigns. The wheatbelt has punched above its weight, or certainly punched at its weight, when it comes to making a contribution to all these campaigns.

I will quickly run through the list of RSL sub-branches in my region. Bencubbin has quite a strong RSL club. Dongara has a growing RSL club. Many people have retired to Dongara. There is an RSL club in Dowerin. I have talked about the RSL club in Geraldton. The Jurien Bay RSL club has a strong membership. Moora has a significant military history and presence. I was involved—unsuccessfully, sadly—in setting up a military museum in Moora when I was with the Wheatbelt Development Commission. The late Ted Dunne was heavily involved in trying to get that project off the ground. I have not given up hope on that yet. There are RSL sub-branches in Morawa–Gutha, Northampton, Perenjori, Three Springs–Arrino, Wongan Hills, Wubin, Dalwallinu, Wyalkatchem, Bakers Hill and Beverley. There is a significant RSL sub-branch at Bruce Rock, which has a very committed team and holds the annual veterans' get together each year. There are RSL sub-branches in Cunderdin, Kellerberrin, Merredin and Northam. The RSL memorial hall in the middle of Northam is used as a polling booth during elections, and on many occasions I have stood outside that hall and read the names on the honour roll. There are RSL sub-branches in Tammin, Toodyay, York, Boddington, Darkan, Dumbleyung, Gnowangerup–Borden, Katanning and Kojonup; in Kondinin and Kulin—I was out there last week, in the south eastern wheatbelt—and in Lake Grace, Mt Barker, Narrogin, Pingelly and Wagin. There is a total of 37 RSL sub-branches in the agricultural region. That is a significant number. I have no doubt that some of the amalgamated clubs would be branches in their own right. I have not done the research on that, but I am sure there was a time when even small communities like my community of Jennacubbine would have had an RSL sub-branch. I am sure many of those clubs will be recipients of funds from the Anzac Day Trust.

I am sure every member of this place is well aware of Graham Edwards, the state president of the Returned and Services League of Australia, WA Branch Incorporated. What an inspirational man Graham Edwards is. He is an outstanding individual. It is fantastic to spend time with Graham Edwards. Graham was a finalist in the Australian of the Year Awards, so it is not just us who value Graham's contribution; he is acknowledged Australia-wide. Graham has given much to his country. He was injured in action, and he served in this Parliament. He has given much to public life in Western Australia. I want to especially acknowledge the enormous contribution of Graham Edwards as president of the RSL in WA, and in the many other things he has done.

I spent my late teenage years in country Victoria. I can remember as a young man of 16 or 17 years of age going to the local RSL dawn service and standing in the dark and the cold as a leader from my school. At that time, sadly, there was much discontent and division in the RSL community about who was eligible to be in the RSL and who was not. I remember going to a dawn service at which there were only four other people. At that time, Eric Bogle wrote a song called *And The Band Played Waltzing Matilda*. The members of the service community were very downhearted that the general population did not have the admiration for them that they had hoped. I am pleased to say that, thankfully, those issues have now been resolved and all are welcome to be a member of the RSL. I have not gone to a dawn service every year, but I have gone to many of them. I took my son as a four or five-year-old to the dawn service, and now every year on Anzac Day he walks from St Thomas More College, along with many other people, to the dawn service at Kings Park. The dawn service is certainly an event that we have made important in our family. Many changes have taken place in my lifetime in the public's awareness and willingness to be part of the dawn service. That has been very positive, and long may it continue. Anzac Day is an important day. It is important that we remember who fought for us and made the lifestyle that we have today possible. I have been to dawn services in Geraldton, Northam, Jennacubbine and Goomalling. It is great to get there early and be a part of a small group, and for the half hour or one hour of that service, we all become one. We all become Australians, and we all become very proud of who we are and what we have achieved, and very proud of those who have gone and served before us. Long may that continue.

I hope that the changes to the act will enable more events to be held on Anzac Day. I hope the public will get behind Anzac Day and there will be a growth in the number of people who take the time to remember and listen to the *Last Post* at an Anzac Day dawn service. The *Last Post* still sends a shiver up and down my spine. I am sure we all feel very special and very sombre when we hear the *Last Post* on Anzac Day.

I think I am almost at the end of what I want to say about the bill. We welcome the change. We support the bills. As we get further into the debate, we will have some further discussions about a couple of potential amendments. I think that the Attorney General or someone else also will move an amendment, and we will talk about those in more detail. We hope that the bill enables the trust to be strengthened and made better and to have contributions from and benefit a wider array of service personnel. We certainly look forward to those changes, because we think it is important that the trust is strengthened as a consequence of this legislation.

I would also like to point out that I think it is most important that there are no changes to the contributions by the state. The state government now contributes, as I mentioned earlier, about \$300 000 to the Anzac Day Trust. I know it is a tough fiscal environment. I am not trying to dilute the debate at all, but I certainly think it is fair to say that this government has a different attitude to money than it did before. I sincerely hope that this contribution to the Anzac Day Trust is never seen as a saving. Yes, we need to expand the trust and, yes, we need to find alternative ways of contributing to the trust, but I think that that \$300 000 contribution from the state and also the contribution from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet should be retained. At the moment, it is the largest contributor, and I hope that changes. I certainly hope that someone somewhere in the government, Treasury or the minister's office, or whatever the case may be, does not look at that \$300 000 and see a potential saving, because that would be a shame. I hope that does not happen because of the state of the finances, which is, as I have pointed out before in many contributions, self-inflicted.

In summary, we support the legislation. The debate in the Legislative Assembly was certainly supportive of the legislation. Members talked about a lot of military events and made a lot of references to some very eminent military personnel and people who were very gallant and brave. I found it fascinating reading. I am probably not the greatest military scholar in the house or in Parliament, but I certainly found it fascinating reading some of the detail of the campaigns, especially in France on the Western Front during the First World War. Those stories were quite sobering to me and made me very proud to be Australian. It made me feel like I should get up and defend the Returned and Services League and service organisations and try to make their world a better place because they have made our world a better place.

HON KATE DOUST (South Metropolitan — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [9.14 pm]: I had not planned on speaking. I know the Attorney General is keen to deal with the Anzac Day Amendment Bill 2015 and the Anzac Day Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2015. I listened to both speakers on this side of the chamber. I have not

been through the bill itself, but I have certainly looked at the second reading speech. I acknowledge, as have my colleagues, the growing significance of Anzac Day in our community. Each of us attend a number of services on that day. I go to three in my electorate in South Perth, Victoria Park and Canning. Over the past 15 years, I have seen significant growth in the number of people, including schoolchildren who are active participants in the process, turning out and engaging in that day. I think that is fantastic. I think Hon Sally Talbot talked about how 30 years ago as we were growing up there was not perhaps as much emphasis placed upon people turning out. The organisation around the commemoration for Anzac Day seemed to ebb and flow, if you like, in some parts of the state. I think it is very positive that we acknowledge our losses during those war periods and, hopefully, reflect upon that and do our damn best to make sure that we do not see those mistakes repeated again. Sadly, as we see in various parts of the world now, those types of conflicts are boiling over.

The minister seems to have disappeared and I had a question I want to put to him about an element that I have picked up in the second reading speech, so I might just say a few other words before I see him in here because I want to ask him about them when see him. Hon Darren West has been through a number of the types of the events and has certainly canvassed the benefits to the trust and certainly to those former service men and women and the types of benefits provided to the various organisations through the state as a result of the trust. That is all very important. I suppose it is about maintaining a fine balance between having an appropriate commemoration and an activity and a community to acknowledge Anzac Day or to have people out participating in Anzac Day events. It is that balance between what is an appropriate community event and becoming too commercial and perhaps then losing sight of what that day really is all about. The question I have for the minister is in reference to some comments in the second reading speech that refer to the mechanisms for determining the contribution to the trust. An organisation may write to the minister no less than 30 days before Anzac Day with an alternative proposal for the minister's consideration. The question I have to the minister, because I do not know what the arrangements are, is: does an organisation, be it a commercial entity or a community organisation, have to apply to the minister for a licence to hold a function on the day, separate from any consideration about the contribution to the trust? I want to know whether that is the case. I ask that because an element of another bill that we will deal with in this place, the Obsolete Legislation Repeal Bill, will repeal the Sunday Entertainments Act 1979, which provides that if an organisation wants to hold an event on Sunday, Good Friday or Christmas Day, it has to apply to the minister for a licence to hold the event. If a cinema operator wants to open on Good Friday, the operator must apply to the Minister for Commerce to do so. If someone wanted to run an ice skate rink or a roller skate rink, or hold a football match—I am not too sure—I am curious whether those types of arrangements would apply for Anzac Day.

Hon Michael Mischin: I would have thought whatever approval is necessary for the particular event would have to be obtained by the legislation applicable to that event, if there is any. All this is doing is directing what amount in certain circumstances by way of proceeds from those events goes towards the trust to provide for —

Hon Ken Travers: This isn't your right of reply, is it?

Hon KATE DOUST: I asked the question. I do not have the bill or the act in front of me. All I want to know is whether an organisation wanting to hold an event has to apply for a licence or formal arrangement giving it approval to have the event.

Hon Michael Mischin: Not under this legislation, no.

Hon KATE DOUST: Okay. I just thought it was an interesting comparison to the other legislation, because given the government is seeking to remove what it regards as red tape in the other bill, I was going to question whether that would be the same under this legislation, but that is not the case.

Hon Michael Mischin interjected.

Hon KATE DOUST: That is really all I wanted to find out about. I just thought, based on the fact that we were dealing with another set of public holidays, if you like, which also have great significance to our community, but of a different nature, that it was interesting that we were talking about the types of events that could occur on this occasion. I just wanted to pose those couple of questions, and of course we support the bill.

HON KEN TRAVERS (North Metropolitan) [9.21 pm]: I want to join my colleagues in indicating our support for the Anzac Day Amendment Bill 2015 and the Anzac Day Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2015. More importantly, I think it is an opportunity for us to acknowledge the importance of Anzac Day and the importance of the people who serve and represent our country in Australia. While we are having this debate, I think members should look to the back of the chamber and recognise those members of this place who have served and engaged in war service. There is a distinguished list of members on the boards on the right-hand side at the back of the chamber. I think this is an appropriate time to recognise and acknowledge that, and acknowledge the importance of Anzac Day, because that is what these bills seek to do. They seek to ensure that not only is there appropriate

recognition but also the special nature of Anzac Day results in events occurring on that day that drive money into the Anzac Day Trust to ensure that it carries on the work it does for veterans and their families in this state.

This legislation will change the way in which sporting events that occur on Anzac Day fund the trust. Hon Darren West listed the money that has currently been collected by the Anzac Day Trust. The one thing that I have not seen in anything I have read or in the bill so far is whether the government has a figure it predicts this new system of charging will provide for the Anzac Day Trust. I would be interested to know whether modelling has been done to ensure that, hopefully, there will be an increase in money going into the trust. I am certainly very keen to know what modelling has been done on the new system for funding and what the government expects will be the revenue generated out of it.

One of the things the passage of these bills will hopefully be useful for is to remind people of the Anzac Day Trust legislation. Again, I listened to Hon Darren West list some groups that have made contributions. As I listened, my gut feeling was that there is probably a number of other sporting groups across Western Australia that hold events on Anzac Day, and that accidentally, not deliberately, through lack of realisation that this legislation exists, have failed to make a contribution to the Anzac Day Trust. I hope the passage of these bills will be an opportunity to remind people. I am not encouraging the government to run advertising or anything, but I hope that the fact this bill is being debated might mean that the media will make mention of it. It is a good opportunity to remind those groups. I am sure that groups like the Western Australian Cricket Association and the WA Football Commission would be well aware of their obligations, but there are many smaller sporting groups that will benefit from this legislation.

The Anzac Day Amendment Bill 2015 deals with some technical issues in changing the way that the trust is constituted. We have seen on a fairly regular basis legislation introduced to change the way in which trusts are created. There has been a big push from specific groups to have people with particular skills on these organisations. I support those sorts of measures, but I think we sometimes forget the importance of groups having representatives on some of these bodies. I think sometimes we just have to be careful that we do not throw everything away, because I think there is often a legitimate role for these people. Depending on the nature of these issues, even if there is a conflict, if it is a conflict that relates to the groups that are predominant in the area, I do not know that it is necessarily a bad thing or one that cannot be managed. Of course, the legislation will also be amended to allow for administration to be allocated to any minister, rather than the Treasurer.

The second bill we are dealing with is effectively a taxing bill, because it deals with the way that the charges are managed. It is named the Anzac Day Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2015, and I must say that a lot of bills of a similar nature would have in brackets the words “tax” or “taxing bill”.

Hon Michael Mischin: “Levy” is the usual one.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Levy, yes.

My point was going to be that although I understand that this is a unique charge, I think when we name bills like this, it would be useful, rather than just having “No. 2”, to have a word in the title of the bill that reflects that the bill is being brought in to meet the requirements of the Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899, which requires us to have separate legislation for the purposes of implying a charge on the people. I am not seeking to amend the bill or anything like that, but I think it is a practice we should ensure. Whether we use the word “levy”, “charge” or “taxing”, I think it is important that bills’ titles reflect the role and function they have, because looking at this bill we could ask whether there are just two different bills that prescribe different actions. I think it would be useful for everyone if the purpose of the second bill was made clear.

Hon Michael Mischin: It is interesting that the original act, of course, did not seek to make those sorts of distinctions. It was all combined in one.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: It is a taxing bill in terms of the definition of “taxing”, because we are imposing a burden on the people to pay money to the government.

Hon Michael Mischin: It is 60 per cent of the net proceeds of certain events.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: I am glad we have these bills in now that the Attorney General has made these comments, because technically I suspect people could say they will not pay any money now it has been pointed out that it has been collected, based on the Attorney General’s comments, without necessarily the correct legislative powers to do so.

Hon Michael Mischin: Things were different back then perhaps.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: That is right. I think back in those days the Legislative Council had been controlled by conservative forces for a very long time and maybe they did things differently in those days.

As I said at the start of my contribution this evening, Anzac Day is a very important day in our community. It is a day that I have engaged in celebrating for a very long time. As a young boy scout I used to regularly attend the Anzac Day ceremonies at the Mt Lawley RSL home when I was probably 12 years old.

Hon Peter Collier: Can you do a reef knot?

Hon KEN TRAVERS: I can—left over right, right over left.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon Liz Behjat): Order! Can we stay focused on the job at hand.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: I want to mention, remembering that the original legislation was enacted in 1960, which was a year before I was born, that when I used to attend the RSL Care WA homes in Mt Lawley one of the significant things in those days was that there were actual Anzac veterans resident there. As a young person, it was always fascinating to talk to people who had been Anzacs. They were still, in those days, alive and living, but old. I would have some fantastic conversations with them. I used to spend a lot of time, because I often used to pass out at these events, as I was wont to do, being cared for by the wives of the Anzacs, who had in many cases fulfilled roles during the Second World War, such as nurses and nursing assistants; they cared for me greatly. I treasure those memories of the time I spent meeting those Anzacs and spending time with them.

That is why a bill of this nature is one that invokes for me memories of those people and their sacrifices. It was at a time when many people saw Anzac Day as a celebration of war, and there was quite a tough debate in our community about the role of Anzac Day. As Hon Darren West mentioned, Anzac Day services did not often get great attendances. As I got slightly older, I started to attend the Anzac Day dawn service at the State War Memorial, Kings Park. Again, the attendance at those events was nothing like it is today. Later in life, as a member of Parliament, I am pretty confident in saying that for the last 20 years and even before that I have not missed a dawn service somewhere in the northern suburbs. In that time I have watched the growth in attendance at these services. I attend three Anzac Day services in particular. One is the Anzac Day service at Wanneroo that is conducted by the Wanneroo–Joondalup RSL. The war memorial there contains the names of people from the district of Wanneroo who lost their lives during the First World War. The memorial has the names of some famous families from the Wanneroo district and other famous Western Australians appear on that list. A war memorial was built at Central Park in Joondalup, although that does not contain the names of any veterans. The third is a memorial that was constructed at the Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club. The interesting thing about all three memorials is that they each have a reasonable turnout of diggers and people who are supporting diggers. The Wanneroo–Joondalup RSL event has grown over the years to the point at which thousands of people turn up. It is interesting that people now bring their young families and there is a real recognition of the important role of respecting Anzac Day, not just the Anzacs, but everybody who has served, particularly those who have lost their lives. This bill is our way as a Parliament to continue to recognise those points in the community.

The commemoration in Joondalup started as a silent service and has now grown. If anyone knows Central Park in Joondalup, basically the whole of Central Park is full of people on Anzac Day, running to 2 000 to 3 000 people. Some speeches are now given, although it is still a limited service. As I say, the service at the Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club is run by the Beaumaris RSL; the other two are run by the Wanneroo–Joondalup RSL. The service at Ocean Reef includes the rising sun emblem of the Australian Army. The club sits on the edge of the ocean. I do not think I have ever attended an Anzac Day ceremony and been able, during the quiet moment of reflection for the minute's silence, to sit there and listen to the lapping waves hitting the rocks on the beach behind me and to think about what it must have been like as the Anzacs were landing predawn at Gallipoli. We sit there at the service, while the Anzacs' peace and tranquillity —

Hon Phil Edman: What about the ones who lost their lives on our own soil?

Hon KEN TRAVERS: I will come to those, if you like.

Hon Phil Edman interjected.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: When I sit down, I hope Hon Phil Edman will get up.

Hon Phil Edman interjected.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: I have been following the member's feed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Order! Your contribution is very interesting and we are looking forward to hearing the rest of it.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: I go back to the Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club and the memorial service that is conducted there. For me, that service really invokes the landing at Gallipoli and also reminds me of the landing at Normandy, of which my father was a part. He was not in the first wave to land, but he was one of the people who walked ashore at Normandy on about the third or fourth day. He was an engineer and his job was to land and

then go and get the ports working so they could bring the vessels in as part of that landing. He was a lot younger then than I am today. He did not tell us much about it until the grandchildren got him to open up. He got to hold the cigarettes on his head, because they wanted to make sure they did not get wet! Members can imagine why my father was chosen to carry the cigarettes ashore, along with everything else, so that they were held up above the water as they landed. Because it was about the third or fourth day, one of the reasons they needed the tallest bloke holding them was that the beach had been shelled and there were some dips in the sand. They would be walking and it would suddenly dip a lot quicker than they anticipated, and they needed to keep their tobacco out of the water! It is a funny story, but when I think about the reality of it for young blokes going over there, they probably did not care at one level, but they would have been scared out of their wits because their lives were clearly on the line. It is really important that we continue to make sure that we provide funds, particularly for the families of veterans.

Finally, I want to move to those who lost their lives on Australian soil. Hon Darren West talked about the Western Australian Museum at Geraldton, and if anyone has ever been to the museum in Broome, it contains the history of the bombing of Broome, where again it is really moving to go around and to see one of those sites and to understand the history of how people lost their lives on Australian soil.

Hon Phil Edman: But were they Australian?

Hon KEN TRAVERS: The member can give his speech when I have finished mine, because I want to make a couple of points before I sit down tonight. There are historic sites such as Broome.

There are also people like my mother, who served during the Second World War doing a range of things. What happened to her during the Second World War is one of the things we should never forget. We pay tribute and acknowledge the sacrifices made by those who served and fought in the war, but there were many people like my mother. She worked testing mustard gas and had mustard gas spilt on her. That had a lifelong impact on her. She is still alive today, so it did not kill her but she suffered from the effects of that. After years of thinking he was a war hero, we found out that my dad's main injury during war time was incurred after getting drunk one night and doing his knee in. I respect that. Mum probably had more lasting injuries, yet today we still recognise dad. My dad is entitled to a benefit from the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Because of my dad, my mum is entitled to some of those benefits. We do not recognise her contribution, and she probably suffered just as much, if not more. The war had a permanent impact on her. I think we should remember all those people.

The other group we have to remember is those who fought in some of the more modern wars. A number of my constituents in the northern suburbs served in Vietnam and more recent conflicts. The injuries and the damage sustained from mental health issues far outweigh the physical damage incurred during the war. I remember sitting at a dinner and being told by one of the people from the Returned and Services League of Australia that of the people who served at Long Tan, more have died from suicide since that conflict than the lives that were lost there. That is quite massive to think about. It was a comment that really stuck in my mind and made me realise just how important that is. Again, the money that will be raised for the Anzac Day Trust as a result of this bill will help those people and their families. There are many of these people in the northern suburbs. I am sure every one of us has people in our electorates who have suffered the consequences after giving their service, not necessarily active with guns or whatever, but they have been in areas of conflict and have suffered trauma as a result.

I think I have told the story previously of a very good friend of mine who lives in Fremantle who was one of the tunnel rats who served in Vietnam. It makes us think of having to go into a blackened tunnel that could be booby trapped and we could get shot and all the rest of it. I think many of us would know the person I am thinking of. I do not think it is appropriate to mention their name. I remember reading a story that was written in *The Australian* many years later about the day he finally contacted his former platoon members. They were on his front doorstep within half an hour to give him support when he needed it. They support each other probably better than we ever can but we should not forget the fact that we need to be giving that support.

I did not get the chance earlier but I have been following the work that Hon Phil Edman is doing. I hope he will get up and tell the house a little about his work.

Hon Phil Edman interjected.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: The member is able to talk about the bill as well. When these bills come before the house, it is quite appropriate for all members to take the time to reflect and pay tribute and to use the opportunity to ensure that we continuously acknowledge the people who have put their lives on the line. Progressively, not only are we seeing more crowds at Anzac Day but we are now recognising the full extent of the people who have been impacted by wars and conflict. As well as those who are directly affected, family members are also affected by events that occurred when their partners served and they have post-traumatic stress disorders and the like. That has a massive impact on families and children. One of my best friends in kindy was a Legacy child. So many family members are impacted by war. That is why I think this bill is such an important bill. I hope that the

changes that we are making here will ensure that more money is collected. I hope that the Attorney General can tell us at some point what the government expects the impact of this bill will be and whether the new charging mechanism or the new way of people giving contributions will result in additional revenue going in so the good work of the Anzac Day Trust can be continued.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.