GALLIPOLI LANDING — ANZAC CENTENARY COMMEMORATIONS

165.   Ms E. EVANGEL to the Minister for Veterans:

The centenary of the Gallipoli landing is only five weeks away. I understand that the minister recently attended an RSL launch at Kings Park. Can he please outline this project for all members and how the community can also become involved?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:

I thank the member for Perth for that question. Yes, we have just over a month to go until the Anzac centenary commemorations. Many organisations are doing many things to arrange appropriate and fitting tributes to the sacrifices of those young Australians so many years ago. One that we attended yesterday was the launch of the Spirit of Anzac Grevillea—a hybrid grevillea developed by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority in Western Australia. It is a stunning grevillea with a beautiful red flower. Believe it or not, it has been seven years in the making—seven years to make this grevillea with genetic material from Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland. I thank Graham Edwards, the state RSL and the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority for the work they have done to come up with an affordable gift and tribute that families across the nation can buy and plant in their own gardens at home. It is a fitting tribute for many people to put in their own gardens. Interestingly, the proceeds of the sale of the Spirit of Anzac Grevillea will go to the Anzac Centenary Arts and Culture Fund to provide welfare for veterans. I encourage people to get behind it if they are looking for a worthwhile and meaningful gift or something they can put in their garden at home with their family —

Mr P.B. Watson: We planted poppies in Albany.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: The problem is that poppies cannot be grown all over Australia. This plant will pretty much grow anywhere. It is a very Australian thing to have a grevillea because it is found across the entire continent. If I can encourage members to get behind it and think about buying one, it would be wonderful.