

20 April 2020

Joint statement by the Australian and New Zealand Ambassadors in Japan

It is with regret that we advise that our ANZAC Day service at the Yokohama Commonwealth Cemetery, Hodogaya will not proceed as scheduled this year. Other services around the world have also been cancelled.

It is very unfortunate that we will be unable to conduct the ANZAC Day service this year, but given the COVID-19 outbreak and the sensible instructions of the Japanese authorities to avoid public gatherings, it is the right decision.

This year we will not be able to gather at the Yokohama Commonwealth Cemetery to acknowledge the resilience and bravery demonstrated by the ANZACs at Gallipoli during World War I. However, we encourage Australians and New Zealanders in Japan to take time on ANZAC Day to reflect on the sacrifice and service of the many men and women who have served in conflicts to protect our countries.

While public ANZAC Day services in Australia and New Zealand have been cancelled, the Australian War Memorial will hold a private ceremony which will be streamed online at 4:30am (Japan time). This service can be accessed at <https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/anzac-day>.

In New Zealand, the official dawn service will be broadcast on Radio NZ National at 3am (Japan time) on 25 April. To find out more visit: https://www.standatdawn.com/home?utm_campaign=SAD&utm_medium=Website+link&utm_source=RSA+Homepage+Website+link

We also encourage Australians and New Zealanders to visit the Yokohama Commonwealth Cemetery once the COVID-19 situation improves in order to pay respects at the final resting place of many Australian and New Zealand service personnel.

Hon. Richard Court AC

Ambassador of Australia to Japan

Hon. Hamish Cooper

Ambassador of New Zealand to Japan