

2026

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY

HOLIDAYS (ANZAC DAY) AMENDMENT BILL 2026

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT
and
HUMAN RIGHTS COMPATIBILITY STATEMENT
(*Human Rights Act 2004*, s 37)**

**Presented by
Michael Pettersson MLA
Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relation
October 2026**

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

HOLIDAYS (ANZAC DAY) AMENDMENT BILL 2026

INTRODUCTION

The Bill **is not** a Significant Bill. Significant Bills are bills that have been assessed as likely to have significant engagement of human rights and require more detailed reasoning in relation to compatibility with the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

This explanatory statement relates to the Holidays (Anzac Day) Amendment Bill 2026 as presented to the Legislative Assembly. It has been prepared to assist the reader of the Bill and to help inform debate on it. It does not form part of the Bill and has not been endorsed by the Assembly. The statement is to be read in conjunction with the Bill. It is not, and is not meant to be, a comprehensive description of the Bill.

OVERVIEW OF THE BILL

The Holidays (Anzac Day) Amendment Bill 2026 amends section 3(1)(a)(viii) of the *Holidays Act 1958* to provide that where Anzac Day falls on a Saturday or Sunday, both Anzac Day, the 25 April, and the following Monday are public holidays.

The amendment legislates additional public holiday arrangements that have been applied under the Holidays Act in 2020, 2021, 2026 and planned for 2027, using existing declaration powers of the responsible Minister.

The changes will provide future consistency and certainty, ensuring that public holiday entitlements apply on the day of 25 April in all years as is the case in every other Australian jurisdiction, recognising the national significance of Anzac Day and importance of participation in commemorative activities and services.

It is also consistent with the application of the majority of other public holidays observed in the ACT that apply an additional Monday public holiday as well as an 'on the day' public holiday, except for the Australia Day public holiday.

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED APPROACH

Government consulted with relevant agencies and targeted stakeholders including employee representatives, unions, industry and employer representatives and veteran groups in developing the Bill.

CLIMATE IMPACT

This Bill does not have a climate impact.

CONSISTENCY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS

During development of the Bill, due regard was given to its compatibility with the rights set out in the *Human Rights Act 2004*. The Bill is not a Significant Bill and has been assessed as not considered to engage human rights.

HOLIDAYS (ANZAC DAY) AMENDMENT BILL 2026

Human Rights Act 2004 - Compatibility Statement

In accordance with section 37 of the *Human Rights Act 2004* I have examined the **Holidays (Anzac Day) Amendment Bill 2026**. In my opinion, having regard to the Bill and the outline of the policy considerations and justification of any limitations on rights outlined in this explanatory statement, the Bill as presented to the Legislative Assembly **is** consistent with the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

.....

Tara Cheyne MLA
Attorney-General

CLAUSE NOTES

Part 1 Preliminary

Clause 1 Name of Act

This is a technical clause that names the short title of the Act. The name of the Act will be the *Holidays (Anzac Day) Amendment Act 2026*.

Clause 2 Commencement

This clause provides for the commencement of the Act. The Act commences on the fourteenth day after its notification.

Clause 3 Legislation amended

This clause identifies the *Holidays Act 1958* as the legislation to be amended and mentioned in schedule 1.

Clause 4 Section 3(1)(a)(viii)

This clause identifies that 25 April (Anzac Day) is a public holiday, and that where Anzac Day falls on a Saturday or Sunday, both Anzac Day and the following Monday are public holidays.