

13.05.2013

We are pleased to inform TÜRSAB that the Minister for Veterans' Affairs the Honourable Warren Snowdon MP made a public statement on 13 May 2013 relating to balloting arrangements for entry to the 25 April Commemorative services in 2015.

We can now advise that for the 8,000 Australian attendees, some of the - available spaces will be reserved for special representatives, including;

- Widows of Australian First World War veterans they do not need to participate in the ballot and will be included as part of Australia's official representatives, with a carer, if fit to travel.
- Five per cent of places allocated in the ballot will be reserved for Australian direct descendants of veterans of the Gallipoli campaign – with preference being given to the first generation – the sons and daughters of Gallipoli veterans – who can provide appropriate documentation proving their descendancy.
- Five per cent of places in the ballot will be reserved for veterans who have qualifying service or who have deployed on any operations outside Australia, whether they are warlike, non-warlike or peacetime operations.
- Five per cent of places will be set aside outside the ballot process for representative secondary school children and their chaperones, to be allocated and managed through the states and territories.

The remaining places will be available for all Australians. The following criteria will apply to the ballot:

• Applicants must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia to register, but do not need to be living in Australia at the time of registration.

- Applicants must be a minimum of 18 years of age on, or before, 25 April 2015 to register.
- Applicants can only register once.
- All passes will be issued as double passes the accompanying pass holder does not need to be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia.
- No additional passes will be provided to an individual that is successful in the ballot.
- Pass holders must make all arrangements for their travel and cover all costs including flights, accommodation, transport and travel insurance etc.

The remaining spaces will be allocated through a ballot, which is expected to be open for registrations on 1 November 2013 and close on 31 January 2014. Advice on ballot outcome will be provided to the individuals in March 2014.

For any further enquiries please visit <u>www.gallipoli2015.dva.gov.au</u> or myself at <u>matthew.mckeon1@dva.go.au</u>

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Matthew McKeon

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