

ALBANY — ANZAC CENTENARY

**53. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:**

I refer to the Premier's decision for the state government to replace the local Albany Centenary of ANZAC Alliance in planning the centenary of ANZAC commemorations.

- (1) When did the Premier make the decision to take over the organisation of centenary planning; and what, if any, consultation did the Premier have with the federal government on this decision?
- (2) Has the federal government expressed concurrence with the Premier's decision for the state government to take control?
- (3) Why did the Premier make the decision to take control of the organisation of the centenary?
- (4) Before taking control of the centenary commemoration organisation in Albany, how much state government funding was expended?

**Hon PETER COLLIER replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)–(4) The Anzac Centre Implementation Committee was established in late January 2013 with the specific objectives of overseeing the construction of the Anzac interpretive centre on time and on budget, developing the interpretive exhibition component of the centre, and developing a sustainable business model for its future. The ACIC has not taken over the organisation and coordination of all Anzac centenary planning in Albany. The ACIC was established after consultation with, and with the support of, the federal Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Western Australian branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia and the City of Albany. The federal government is fully supportive of the formation of the ACIC; it is represented on the committee through the deputy commissioner of the Department of Veterans' Affairs in WA.

To clarify it once again, the state has not taken control of the organisation of the Anzac centenary. The ACIC was created following advice from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and other stakeholders that the centre was unlikely to be completed within the required framework and proposed budget. The government of Western Australia has committed \$2.2 million to the Anzac interpretive centre; none of this funding has yet been expended. It has also provided \$5.83 million to upgrade infrastructure at Mt Clarence; however, this work is being managed by the City of Albany and is not within the scope of the ACIC.