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MEDIA RELEASE

Mackay to host Anzac experience

MACKAY will be one of 23 communities across the country to host a special travelling exhibition to commemorate the Centenary of Anzac, with the interactive experience set to visit in July 2016. Federal Member for Dawson George Christensen said the *Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience* would provide people in Mackay and the wider region with a fantastic opportunity to become immersed in Australia's First World War Story.

"Mackay is a long way from our War Memorial in Canberra, but this is about bringing a little bit of the War Memorial to us," Mr Christensen said.

"From the moment people enter this exhibit, it will be as if they are stepping off a ship and onto the shores of Gallipoli. From there, as they move throughout the exhibit, they will trace the movements of Anzac soldiers through the trenches of the Western Front and the deserts of Palestine right up to the signing of the Armistice.

"The *Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience* is an interactive exhibit that will give us a unique perspective of Australia's involvement in the First World War and I am delighted that Mackay will be one of the 23 communities around Australia that will host this magnificent exhibition."

The *Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience* begins its national tour in Albury Wodonga in September, and it will conclude in Sydney in April 2017.

It requires the space of three basketball courts side-by-side, and entry to the experience is free.

Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC, Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson, said the Australian Government and the Australian War Memorial had partnered with Telstra the Commonwealth Bank of Australia to make the exhibition possible.

"I would like to sincerely thank both Telstra, and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia for working with the Government on this project and making it a reality," Senator Ronaldson said.

"One of the most important legacies that can come from the Anzac Centenary national programme is to improve community understanding and awareness of our wartime history, particularly for younger Australians.

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For further information, contact Lynn Bonanno on 0408 773 207