

**ATTACHMENT:           QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AND  
FURTHER                   INFORMATION AGREED TO BE SUPPLIED  
                                  AT THE HEARINGS**

**The Hon John Eren, MP**

**Minister for Veterans**

**MINISTER**

1. How is the State Government commemorating the anniversary of Pozieres on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July?  
*(Page 6 of the Veterans portfolio transcript)*

*DPC Response:*

The impact of the battles of the Western Front on Australia was great indeed, the overall losses during that time are hard to imagine today. Over one million men are estimated to have been wounded or killed at the Battle of the Somme alone.

Australian and Victorian troops were involved in many battles across the Western Front – these include Ypres, Zonnebeeke (where the bodies of Australian soldiers were recently discovered and identified), Bullecourt, Polygon Wood, Peronne, Le Hamel, Mont St Quentin, Passchendaele and Messines among others.

The Victorian Anzac Centenary Committee, chaired by the Hon Ted Baillieu, advise that it's important to remind Victorians of the immensity of the Western Front, rather than a few selected engagements. Therefore the Government is planning a six month statewide project that honours those who were involved across all the battles of the Western Front and that encourages local communities to commemorate their own stories, and the battles that have particular meaning to them.

For the period of the Centenary, communities are also eligible to apply for funding through the Anzac Centenary Community Grants program or through the Victoria Remembers program <http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/veterans/veterans-grants>.

In addition, the kit which accompanies the Anzac Centenary Roadshow – Victoria's Journey of Remembrance – provides information on some of the most significant battles of WWI, including of course the Western Front.