



RSL (NSW)

24 SEP 2018

THE HON STEVE IRONS MP
ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER

FILE NO. _____
TO _____

Reference: MC18-105187

Mr James Brown
President
Returned Services League of New South Wales Branch
ANZAC House
245 Castlereagh Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Brown

Thank you for your letter dated 2 August 2018 to the former Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull, regarding Australia Day. As you would be aware, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, was sworn in as Prime Minister on 24 August 2018. The Prime Minister has asked me respond on his behalf.

Australia Day is widely considered to be a significant day of national celebration, with a growing range of events being held around the nation each year. On occasion suggestions are made to change Australia Day from 26 January to another date. The Commonwealth Government does not support a change to the date of Australia Day. The Government recognises that there may never be total agreement about what is an appropriate national day.

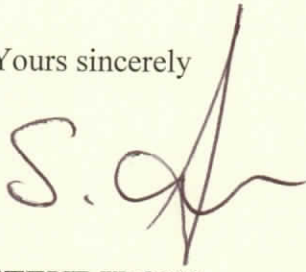
Australian Government Flag Protocol for Australia Day is to fly flags at full-mast for the day. This year's flag message for Australia Day is published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website at www.pmc.gov.au/government/australian-national-flag/flag-network/australia-day-0.

The National Australia Day Council (NADC) is the coordinating body for Australia Day celebrations across the nation. The NADC encourages the flying of the Australian National Flag together with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags on Australia Day. Further information about flying flags on Australia Day is published on the NADC website at www.australiaday.org.au/storage/flag-raising-ceremonies-event-organiser-toolkit-2.pdf.

The NADC appreciates that some Australians may have mixed feelings about Australia Day and that the date may invoke a mixture of celebration and mourning. Australia Day is an opportunity for the Australian people to celebrate the unique status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The NADC is committed to playing a part in the journey of reconciliation by helping all Australians to move forward with a better understanding of our shared past, and importantly how this affects the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today, and how we might build a better future together tomorrow.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write to the Government with your views.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Irons', with a long, sweeping vertical stroke extending upwards from the 'I'.

STEVE IRONS

17/ 9 / 2018