

Premier,

I am writing on behalf of veterans who have served our country and who continue to gather each ANZAC Day to honour the mates we lost and the service we gave.

We are deeply concerned that the Queensland Government has again refused to remove the requirement for veterans to purchase a substantial meal before being allowed to have a drink on ANZAC Day morning. This rule is outdated, unfair, and inconsistent with how other venues and services are treated.

At present, veterans attending dawn services must buy a heavy, cooked meal—often costing more than \$30 due to public-holiday surcharges—before they can share a beer with their mates. Many older veterans cannot eat greasy or large meals for medical reasons. Others simply cannot afford these inflated prices on fixed incomes. As a result, some veterans are choosing not to attend gatherings at all.

Meanwhile, on the night before ANZAC Day, young people can finish work, go out, and drink until 3am with **no requirement** to purchase a meal. River Cat services and other venues enjoy far more freedom than veterans do on the very morning meant to commemorate service and sacrifice.

It is difficult to understand why those who served our country are being treated more strictly than late-night drinkers.

The intention behind the law may have once been reasonable, but its practical impact today is not. Veterans are being priced out, restricted, and in some cases excluded from the very day that is supposed to honour them.

We ask that the Queensland Government review this rule and remove the meal requirement for ANZAC Day morning. A simple sandwich or light meal should be acceptable. Better still, veterans should not be compelled to purchase food at all in order to share a drink after dawn services.

Veterans deserve respect, not unnecessary barriers.

We look forward to your reconsideration of this matter.

Regards, **John Sambrooks** Wallaby Airlines 35Sqn Association