



# Media release

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**Authorised by: DENNIS WELLINGTON, MAYOR**

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## **World-class Anzac centre to begin construction**

The first sod has officially been turned on one of the most important projects in Australia's Anzac Centenary plans – the long-awaited Anzac Interpretive Centre in Albany.

On Friday October 25, Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington welcomed Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of Anzac Michael Ronaldson and WA Veterans' Minister Joe Francis to Albany to take part in the sod turning ceremony.

Mr Wellington described it as an historic occasion.

"This centre will be a truly world-class facility incorporating carefully selected interpretive material and state-of-the-art online and interactive elements," he said.

"When complete the centre will appropriately commemorate the legacy of the Anzacs and Albany's central role in that story."

Mr Wellington congratulated all stakeholders who had collaborated to make the AIC a reality, including City staff and councillors, the RSL, and the Federal and State Governments.

The AIC was made possible by funding from both the State and Federal Governments.

Mr Wellington said the AIC would be the centrepiece of a rejuvenated military precinct, which will be named Albany Heritage Park and will incorporate Princess Royal Fortress and the entire Mt Adelaide and Mt Clarence precincts.

Forward works have been completed ahead of schedule at the AIC site. Construction is expected to start in mid-November, with completion due in August 2014 ready for the interpretive fit-out.

Also present at Friday's ceremony were Richard Muirhead, State Director National Commemorative Events, the Hon Dr Brendan Nelson, Director Australian War Memorial, Simon Lewis, Secretary Department of Veterans' Affairs, Geoff McNeill, RSL WA representative, Federal Member for O'Connor Rick Wilson MP, Senator for Western Australia Dean Smith, Member for Albany Peter Watson MLA, City of Albany Acting Chief Executive Officer Garry Adams, Ross Marshall, Regional Manager, BGC Construction Pty Ltd and various other community stakeholders.

**END**