



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
ANKARA**

Dear Tour Operators,

It has been brought to the attention of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Australia that there has been some confusion amongst the public and the tour operators about the future of the Anzac Day Services held at Gallipoli on 25 April each year. I am writing to offer you clarity about this concern.

The Anzac Day Dawn Service at Gallipoli remains one of Australia's most significant commemorative events each year, and plans are well underway for the service to be held in 2016. Our commitment to maintaining a very close and productive working relationship with the Turkish Government in providing a solemn and dignified Dawn Service at Gallipoli will continue.

At time of writing this letter, there are not any known security concerns that will prevent the Services on 25 April 2016 from being held. The DVA relies on the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for their expert opinion with regards to the security situation in Turkey and you should direct your customers to visit the Smart Traveller website so they may make their own informed decision (<https://smartraveller.gov.au/>).

On a recent visit to Turkey, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs announced Australia's ongoing commitment to hold the Dawn Service in Gallipoli into the foreseeable future. In this regard, there should be no cause for confusion for the public and the tour operators about likelihood for a cancellation of the Dawn Service in Gallipoli in 25 April 2016. The Australian Government will continue to inform the public and the tour operators about the planning for the services through regular communication and meetings.

Yours Sincerely,

Aaron Coutts
First Secretary, Department of Veterans' Affairs
Australian Embassy, Ankara