



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
ANKARA**

Dear Tour Operators,

As you may be aware on 28 February 2016 a Ministerial media release was issued in Australia by the Hon. Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Minister assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of Anzac, and Minister for Defence Materiel announcing that a service will be held at Lone Pine Cemetery on 6 August 2016 to commemorate the 101st anniversary of the Battle of Lone Pine.

After recent events in Turkey, Turkish authorities have asked the Australian Government to reconsider holding the service on 6 August 2016 and, following consultation between our governments, the service will not be held. The Turkish Government and its people are generous hosts of Australia's various commemorations at Gallipoli, and the Government respects their request.

The Lone Pine Cemetery at Gallipoli will be open to visitors to pay their respects on 6 August. The Government has asked the Australian Ambassador to Turkey, James Larsen, to lay a wreath at the Lone Pine Memorial to honour the 101st anniversary of the Battle of Lone Pine on 6 August. This will take place at 10.00 on 6 August 2016 at the Lone Pine Cemetery at the Gallipoli Historic Site.

Anzac Day services in Turkey on 25 April, 2017 and beyond are not affected by this decision, planning is ongoing and further information will be provided when details are confirmed.

I look forward to our ongoing relationship in support of the Australian commemorative events on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink is written over a circular blue stamp. The stamp contains the text 'AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY' at the top, '15' in the center, and 'ANKARA' at the bottom. The center of the stamp features a small version of the Australian Coat of Arms.

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