



**A MESSAGE FROM THE
CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE**

As we commemorate the 115th anniversary of the official end of the Boer War, we reflect on the significant impact this conflict had on our young nation. The Boer War holds a special place in our history as the first time all Australian colonies deployed troops in a foreign conflict, and our first military contribution as the Commonwealth of Australia following Federation in 1901. It was in the Boer War that Australian military forces first gained their reputation for skill, mateship and courage in adversity – qualities that were to become synonymous with the Anzacs and continue to be embodied in the men and women of the Australian Defence Force today.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of the National Boer War Memorial Association and its members over nearly a decade, 2017 marks a significant event as the National Boer War Memorial takes its rightful place alongside the monuments to other conflicts which also shaped our nation's character and history. The Memorial will be an enduring monument for future generations to honour the contribution of the 16,000 Australian men and women who served in South Africa, and remember the sacrifice of those who did not return.

I wish you all the best for the 2017 commemorations, and look forward to attending the official dedication of the new Memorial on Anzac Parade to honour the memory of all those affected by the Boer War of 1899-1902.



MD Binskin, AC
Air Chief Marshal
Chief of the Defence Force

ii May 2017