

WESTERN FRONT FELLOWS

A Shorten Labor Government will establish a fellowship program based within the Sir John Monash Centre at the Australian National Memorial in Villers-Bretonneux, France.

As the Centenary of Anzac begins to draw to a close it's important we consider how best we can continue to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of the brave men who served on the Western Front, ensuring the legacy which is ingrained in our history remains as relevant today as it did 100 years ago.

This program will serve as a tangible and fitting memorial to the contribution of our diggers on the Western Front.

Villers-Bretonneux is a site of significance for Australians, following the Battle of Villers-Bretonneux in 1918. This Battle, described as a crucial turning point in the War, saw approximately 3,900 men participate in the ferocious night attack which took back the town from German troops.

Later described by a British General as 'perhaps the greatest individual feat of the war', Villers-Bretonneux is the site of the Australian National Memorial, the main memorial to Australian military personnel killed on the Western Front during World War 1.

Based on a program run by Veterans' Affairs Canada, participants will be based at the Sir John Monash Centre and provide tours to both Australian and International tourists, offering an Australian perspective on the conflict and its ongoing significance.

Applications will be open to full time post-secondary students undertaking study who have a passion for history.

Participants will explain the significance of the site and answer questions from the public on Australian military history, including sites, local attractions and points of interest in the region.

Supported by a stipend, successful applicants will be based in Villers-Bretonneux for a period of four months.

Labor's Western Front Fellows is a unique and rewarding opportunity for young people to live and work in France, giving a voice to our nation's history.

Role specifications

There will be two intakes a year, with four students in each intake (8 placements in total a year).

Applications will be open to full time post-secondary students with an interest in history, with successful applicants based in Villers-Bretonneux for a period of four months.

During this time participants will work a 35 hour week and be supported with a stipend equivalent to the French Minimum wage and be supported with a contribution towards accommodation costs.

In addition upon return to Australia, subject to satisfactory performance, participants will be eligible for a partial reimbursement for flights.

In order to target peak tourist periods, the first placement will begin in April and last until July. The Second placement will then begin in August and last until November.

Villers-Bretonneux will always hold a special place in the heart of Australians. Establishing a fellowship program at this site demonstrates our ongoing commitment to honouring the service and sacrifice of our diggers. It has been costed at 0.6\$M to 2021/22.