Territorians have turned out in their thousands today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing, reaffirming their respect for the ANZAC spirit and the values we hold dear.

It was an honour to attend services in both Darwin and Alice Springs today marking 100 years since our brave soldiers first arrived on Gallipoli’s fateful shores.

For many, Gallipoli is where our national spirit was born out of the spilt blood and bravery of young soldiers.

There is no denying it has a haunting hold on Australia’s heart.

But today, ANZAC Day commemorations are about more than just the tragedy and the courage of Gallipoli.

The ANZAC story is now a more complex tale that spans conflicts far and wide.

It’s a story of Australian soldiers fighting on battlefields across the globe, a story of Peacekeepers protecting civilians in global trouble-spots.

It’s a story of Defence medics flying-in to treat victims of disasters, of sailors protecting our borders and Air Force pilots patrolling our skies.

It’s a day when we pay tribute to everyone who has ever worn a uniform in proud defence of their country and Australian values.

These very values have been sorely tested this ANZAC Day by security scares aimed at weakening our resolve to stand and remember.

I’m was proud see Territorians standing defiantly in their thousands today, shoulder to shoulder with millions of Australians across the country.

All of us proved resolute in our support of the ANZAC Spirit and of soldiers past, present and future.

Lest we forget.

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