



## Media Statement

02/04/08

### **Canning Vale student blazing a trail to the Western Front**

Canning Vale school student Emma Hains took another step closer towards the First World War's historic Western Front recently when she received her official ANZAC Student Tour blazer from Premier Alan Carpenter.

Emma, a Year 10 student at Willetton Senior High School, is one of 12 students selected to travel with Mr Carpenter to France and Belgium this month as part of the Premier's ANZAC Student Tour 2008.

Mr Carpenter said the students will be walking in the footsteps of the ANZACs paying tribute to those who served or were killed or injured on the battlefields of the Western Front.

"More than 48,000 young Australians, not much older than the students selected for this tour, lost their lives on the battlefields of France and Belgium," Mr Carpenter said.

"The students chosen to take part in the tour have demonstrated an interest in Australia's role at the Western Front and are all outstanding representatives of young Western Australia.

"Emma is in her school's Academic Talent Program and has won numerous awards across different subjects."

Emma's family has a long history of serving in the armed forces for Australia and she is looking forward to visiting the battlefields.

"I have been reading about soldiers and their personal stories and experiences. I am very excited to be visiting these places for real," Emma said.

"I am expecting to experience a range of emotions on some of our visits and I hope I can return and share these experiences with other people."

Mr Carpenter said the tour has special significance in 2008 as the students will join him at the Dawn Service on April 25 at the French village of Villiers-Bretonneux to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town's liberation from German occupation.

“This tour is part of the State Government’s commitment to raising the profile of ANZAC Day in the lives of all Western Australians, remembering the sacrifices of our forebears,” he said.

**Media contact:** Liz Di Giovanni, Department of Education and Training Media Unit, 9264 5348. For more information visit [www.det.wa.edu.au/ANZAC](http://www.det.wa.edu.au/ANZAC).

Photo attached. Emma Hains is available for interviews.