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Sent: Saturday, 18 April 2020 10:02 AM

To: darren.chester.mp@aph.gov.au

Subject: Media Query

Dear Minister,

I am writing an article for Independent Australia regarding our veterans memories and am seeking a response to some queries regarding the Battle of Beersheba in the First World War.

1. Does the government recognise that during the WW1 Beersheba was in Palestine and that Israel did not exist?
2. What is the view of the Australian government in regards to Israel's 100 year anniversary event where Australian troops carried Israeli flags during the re-enactment of the Charge of the 4th Light Horse Brigade which occurred in Palestine more than 30 years before Israel existed? Does the government see this as an accurate portrayal of events?
3. Benjamin Netanyahu in his address at the event referred to the bravery of what were Australian troops as "*the spirit of the army of Israel*". Is that a view shared by the government?
4. Would the Australian government publicly express concerns if a foreign nation chose to alter the facts during a commemoration of the ANZAC story at Gallipoli, and if not, what makes the Battle of Beersheba any different.

The 100 year Beersheba re-enactment I refer to was attended by then Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Opposition Leader Bill Shorten as well as Josh Frydenberg and Dan Tehan amongst others.

If I could have a response by Wednesday 22nd April at 5pm it would be greatly appreciated.

Kind Regards

Peter Wicks

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