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Domestic news

New war memorial designs unveiled

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Two new war memorials in Canberra will be dedicated to the sacrifice of Australian servicemen and women who served in both world wars, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has announced.

More than 1.4 million people supported the war effort at home and abroad, while more than 100,000 Australians lost their lives during World War I and II.

Mr Rudd unveiled models of the granite memorials at Parliament House on Thursday.

The government has committed \$250,000 to the estimated \$21 million cost of the project.

The sleek black and charcoal designs arise from a competition won by Brisbane-based Richard Kirk Architects.

"The First World War helped shaped our character, the Second World War saw us defending our own shores," Mr Rudd said at the unveiling ceremony.

"Our servicemen and women who served in both world wars as they do today with courage, with resilience and compassion.

"These qualities not only shaped our past, but they also steel us for the present and prepare us for the future."

The Australian War Memorial, which evolved from World War I, and was opened during World War II, stood as a "great monument" to Australia's role in the two conflicts.

The imposing memorials will be built at the foot of Anzac Parade to frame the view of the Australian War Memorial.

Australians will be encouraged to help fund the cost of construction.

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