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MINISTER FOR SPORT MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS MINISTER ASSISTING FOR INDUSTRY & INNOVATION SENATOR FOR THE A.C.T

Celebrating the Year of the Snake

I send my warmest wishes to all Australians celebrating Chinese New Year as we welcome the Year of the Snake.

The spectacular Chinese New Year celebrations that take place in many communities all over Australia are a reminder that Chinese Australians hold a special place in our national story.

For generations the Chinese Australian community has made tremendous contributions to our national success and have played a role in building Australia to become a vibrant and diverse nation ready to seize the Asian Century.

As we celebrate the Year of the Snake, we acknowledge not only the richness that multiculturalism and our history brings, but the opportunities that a future in the Asian Century provides.

This Chinese New Year is an opportunity for all Australians to celebrate our diversity and vibrant multiculturalism.

On behalf of the Gillard Government, I wish all Australians *Gong Xi Fā Cái* and *Kung Hei Fat Choi* – congratulations, good health and prosperity for the Year of the Snake.

Kate Lundy