



PRIME MINISTER  
CANBERRA

## MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER JULIA GILLARD

### CHINESE NEW YEAR

I send my warmest good wishes to everyone celebrating Chinese New Year.

The spectacular colour and sounds that mark this festival are a vivid demonstration that Chinese people are custodians of one of the world's great cultures that is a treasure for all humanity.

But for us as Australians, the Lunar New Year is also a reminder of the integral place that Chinese-Australians hold in the story of our nation.

For almost two centuries, the Chinese have contributed a rich strand to our history and to our contemporary success as a vibrant, open society ready to meet the challenges of the Asian Century.

So this Chinese New Year - marking the transition from the Year of the Dragon to the Year of the Snake - provides an opportunity for our Chinese community to gather with loved ones and welcome the coming year with optimism.

But for all Australians, this is also a moment to celebrate the depth and vibrancy of our multiculturalism and to seek that unity of national purpose which alone will enable us to build the future our children deserve.

With these thoughts in mind, I wish *Gōng Xi Fā Cǎi* and *Kung Hei Fat Choi* to those celebrating Chinese New Year, and trust that the Year of the Snake will bring good health, happiness and prosperity to all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Julia Gillard'.

The Honourable Julia Gillard MP  
Prime Minister of Australia