



PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

**MESSAGE: ASSYRIAN AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FEDERATION INC
– ASSYRIAN NEW YEAR FESTIVAL**

It is an honour to send my best wishes to all of the participants in the Assyrian New Year Festival.

I hope that the new year will be a peaceful and prosperous time for all. The celebration of the New Year by the Assyrian-Australian community is a time to rejoice at the renewal of life, at new beginnings and the start of another year. The festivities provide a great opportunity for families and friends to embrace Assyrian culture and honour ancient traditions.

Australia is home to people from many different backgrounds and religions, united by mutual respect and a common commitment to fairness, democratic values and freedom. The Assyrian-Australian community's productive participation in Australia's cultural and economic achievements is worth celebrating and what better event than at the Assyrian New Year Festival.

Cultural diversity is an intrinsic part of Australian society and a unifying force for our nation. It is important to reflect upon these ideas and the efforts of the Assyrian-Australian community to contribute to the pursuit of these important goals at events such as this festival. I commend the Assyrian Australian National Federation for its efforts in fostering a better understanding of the diverse traditions that enrich Australian society.

I would like to wish all those attending the Assyrian New Year Festival hope for a peaceful and prosperous new year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'John Howard' in a cursive style.

(John Howard)