

The Hon Tony Abbott MHR Leader of the Opposition

Federal Member for Warringah

Message from the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Tony Abbott MHR

ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIA 98th Anniversary Armenian Genocide Commemoration

I join with the members of the Australian-Armenian community in marking the 98th anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

The world should never forget this terrible episode. On this 98th anniversary we remember the loss of life of around one and a half million Armenians between 1915 and 1923.

There is only so much that can be done to right the wrongs of the past. Still, it's important to remember, to grieve, and to resolve to build a better world and more humane societies.

As the Australian-Armenian community gathers to commemorate the anniversary, I take this opportunity to recognise the very significant contribution Australians of Armenian heritage have made to our nation.

Since 1788, Australia has been an immigrant society. Successive waves of newcomers eager for a better life have enriched our culture and added a heroic dimension to our national story.

My thoughts are with the Australian-Armenian community as you mark the anniversary.

Yours sincerely

TONY ABBOTT

19 April 2013