



PRIME MINISTER  
CANBERRA

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

I am pleased to support this International Conference on Human Rights Education.

The Australian Government believes that a culture of human rights is critical to maintaining a just, equitable and democratic society. Australians believe in a "fair go", and promoting a fair go is at the heart of human rights education.

Since coming to office in 2007, the Australian Government has demonstrated its commitment to human rights by taking actions such as the national apology to Indigenous Australians, the "*Closing the Gap*" initiatives, same-sex reforms, ratifying the United Nations Disabilities Convention and more humane treatment of refugees and asylum seekers.

We conducted a nationwide consultation on how best to protect and promote human rights and responsibilities in Australia, to ensure that Australians had the chance to have their say on this important issue. The Report from the National Human Rights Committee, arising from the Consultation, noted that many submissions referred to the need for greater human rights education and that "human rights can be protected and promoted effectively only if an understanding of and commitment to human rights have become a part of everyday life for all in the community, as well as for government, the private sector and non-government organisations."

I commend the University of Western Sydney for its contribution to human rights education in initiating this Conference. It is vital that a broad and ongoing discussion continue throughout the Australian community on this important issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Rudd'.

The Honourable Kevin Rudd MP  
Prime Minister of Australia