



PRIME MINISTER  
CANBERRA

**MESSAGE: LAUNCH OF 'THE HENRY PARKES FOUNDATION'  
AT THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER OF THE  
NSW PARLIAMENT ON 4 JUNE 1999**

I am pleased to have this opportunity to pass on my best wishes to everyone involved with the launch of The Henry Parkes Foundation tonight.

The name of Sir Henry Parkes is synonymous with Federation. Parkes was an ardent advocate for Federation and as early as 1867 he expressed the view that the colonies should be unified by a federal bond. His famous speech at Tenterfield in 1889 when he called for 'a great national government for all Australia', led to him presiding over the National Australian Convention in 1891 when the first draft of a Constitution Bill was drawn up for submission to the Parliaments. It is most appropriate that he was dubbed the 'Father of Federation'.

It is also appropriate that over a century later, and on the eve of the Centenary of Federation celebrations in 2001, a Foundation should be established in his name with the basic aim of promoting among all Australian citizens an understanding of our constitutional structures and political systems. The Henry Parkes Foundation will ensure that Parkes' egalitarian vision is carried forward in ways relevant to the 21st century and the new millennium. I wish the Foundation well in its endeavours.

As Sir Henry was a five times Premier of NSW I am sure he would have thought it fitting that the launch of a Foundation named in his honour should take place in the NSW Parliament. I hope you all have a wonderful evening and enjoy this historic occasion.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Howard".

(John Howard)