

## On Harmony Day 2015

As Harmony Day comes around again, I am excited to encourage school communities around Australia to take this time to reflect on the incredible diversity of our nation.

We are lucky in Australia to have a rich blend of languages, foods, music, dance, traditions and faiths. No better place is this displayed than in our public schools! Harmony Day is a day to rejoice in these cultural differences; to send the message to our children that everyone belongs.

Our playgrounds and classrooms are the ideal spaces to help our children begin to develop a natural and joyful understanding and respect for diversity, and there are so many wonderful ways to do this.

I encourage you to find ways to contribute to your school community this Harmony Day, whether that be through sports, cooking, dancing, singing, storytelling, or more.

Participating in Harmony Day sends a message of cultural respect from our school communities to everyone who has made Australia their home—from our traditional owners to those who have come from all across the world.

It warms me to think of all those school communities across Australia who this week will be sharing and celebrating each other's stories; who are being inspired by the mix of traditions and journeys they encounter.

Our schools have long been identified by their rich cultural diversity. Take pride in that by being a part of celebrating this diversity on Harmony Day 2015!