



Message from The Honourable Julia Gillard MP Prime Minister of Australia

Australia is honoured to be hosting the 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Perth, Western Australia from 28 to 30 October.

The Commonwealth is a unique association that has facilitated international understanding and cooperation over seven remarkable decades. Our membership is diverse – the Commonwealth includes the world’s largest and smallest, richest and poorest nations – but we are united in our values: democracy, freedom, the rule of law, and opportunity for all. It is our common vision for a peaceful and prosperous future which underpins the enduring nature of this voluntary association of nations.

As a founding member, Australia is proud of the role of the Commonwealth and its continuing efforts in contributing to a more just and peaceful world. I believe that the future of the Commonwealth is bright, and as it continues to grow and change we will work together to improve its effectiveness and to strengthen its key institutions for the benefit of all members.

At CHOGM 2011 we will support reform of important Commonwealth institutions. We will also strive for an effective economic and development agenda that meets

the needs of Commonwealth members, including small and vulnerable states, by leveraging the expertise and capabilities of the Commonwealth. And we will work to advance cooperation and progress on global issues of importance to Commonwealth members, including the challenges of climate change, sustainable development, and food security.

One of the Commonwealth’s key strengths is the diversity of its membership. Australia knows well the strength and resilience which are brought about by having a dynamic and diverse society, with our population of over 22 and a half million made up of our indigenous peoples as well as settlers and migrants

from every corner of the globe. The vibrant multicultural city of Perth will provide a wonderful setting not only for the leaders’ meeting at this year’s CHOGM, but also for a range of parallel and associated events which are set to take place within the local community.

As Prime Minister of Australia, I look forward to welcoming Commonwealth leaders to Perth in October to discuss and make progress on many important issues, and to celebrate partnerships amongst the peoples of the Commonwealth. 