



PRIME MINISTER

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER**

**AUSTRALIAN SOUTH SEA ISLANDER RECOGNITION DAY  
25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

From the arrival of the *Don Juan* at the port of Brisbane in 1863, generations of South Sea Islanders have had a lasting influence on the social, cultural and economic life of our nation.

Despite immense hardship and discrimination, the community's story is one of survival and resilience. It is a story worthy of reflection and remembrance.

It is also a story of contribution and achievement as well. Australian South Sea Islanders are today represented across many prominent fields of endeavour, and there is growing appreciation of the community's unique story in our nation's shared history.

We remember also the Australian South Sea Islanders who have served as members of the defence force in times of peace and war.

The Commonwealth's recognition of the community as a distinct cultural group was an important step in an ongoing journey of understanding, and affirmed the special place of Australian South Sea Islanders within the fabric of our nation.

As you gather in celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that momentous day, I join you in reflecting with pride and gratitude on the immense contribution Australian South Sea Islanders have made to our nation's success and to the ongoing ties of friendship we share with the people of the South Seas.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Morrison'.

The Hon Scott Morrison MP  
Prime Minister of Australia

12 August 2019