



PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER JULIA GILLARD

**TWELFTH BIENNIAL LABOUR HISTORY CONFERENCE
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, CANBERRA**

I offer my very best wishes to the organisers and attendees at the Twelfth Biennial Labour History Conference, to be held - very appropriately - at the university founded by Ben Chifley and at the centre named after our finest historian, Manning Clark.

Although I can't be present with you, I wish to state my conviction of the enduring value of labour studies to the wider discipline of history and to the proper understanding of our journey as a nation and as a people.

Labour studies have a proud place in Australian intellectual life, both in the academy and outside, combining appropriate scholarly rigour with a passion for the values and ideals of the Labour Movement.

The field of labour studies would not, of course, be complete without consideration of the life and work of remarkable individuals who have stamped their presence on this history of our nation.

Biography has a profound place in the study of history that changing intellectual fashions can never shift, and I warmly welcome the fact that this conference has been jointly organised with the National Centre for Biography, custodians of our greatest historical work, the Australian Dictionary of Biography.

The Biennial Labour History Conference is the pre-eminent event in Australia's labour history calendar. It is a gathering of lasting value for the intellectual, social and political life of our nation.

I thank Dr Abjorensen and his colleagues for the opportunity to share this message, and trust the conference will be successful both in its scholarly aims and as a moment of fellowship, sharing and solidarity.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Julia Gillard'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

The Honourable Julia Gillard
Prime Minister of Australia