



**A message to
the Australian People
from
the President of Iceland
Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson**

To be a country of settlers provides a unique sense of discovery and exploration. The Icelanders share this experience with the Australians although half the globe and a thousand years mark our separate tradition.

In the year 1874, a quarter of a century before the Australian Federation was founded the people of Iceland celebrated the 1000th anniversary of the settlement of our country by the vikings. Those events are engrained in our culture and sense of being.

We can therefore share in the profound pride and joy our friends in Australia take in the Centenary of Federation.

I send the Australian people congratulations from the Icelandic nation.

May your future have the same sense of discovery and excitement as the earlier times and the people of Australia continue to contribute significantly to a more harmonious, peaceful and prosperous world.