

PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

## CENTRE FOR PUBLIC CHRISTIANITY

Congratulations on the launch of the Centre for Public Christianity.

The Centre's establishment is a welcome development in the spiritual and intellectual life of Australia. It has the potential to make a valuable contribution to public debate in Australia – in promoting a better understanding of Christian faith in the wider community, as well as promoting greater engagement with public life and culture by Australian Christians.

An additional and important contribution that the Centre can make is to bring a uniquely Australian perspective on the Christian faith that is lived out by millions of Australians every day.

There was a time in Australia when it was considered impolite to publicly discuss matters of religion and politics. It is good that those days are behind us. Conducted in a spirit of civility and respect for others, we have much to gain from an open, robust discussion about what we as individuals and as a society believe and most value. I am confident that in this spirit of civility, CPX will be able to probe, provoke and challenge all of us.

I warmly welcome the establishment of the Centre for Public Christianity and I look forward to its future contribution to Australian life in the months and years ahead.

The Honourable Kevin Rudd MP Prime Minister of Australia