



PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLISH INDEPENDENCE

The 11 November is rightly a momentous occasion for Polish people everywhere, a chance to recall a defining moment in history, a turning point that marked Poland's re-emergence as a nation state.

As the Polish Australian community joins in celebration, this is a chance for all Australians to acknowledge the enduring friendship we share with Poland and her people.

Remarkably, the first contact between our countries occurred in 1696, when several Poles joined Willem de Vlamingh's Dutch expedition to explore the Western Australian coast.

Some 150 years later, the great explorer Paul Edmund Strzelecki memorably named Australia's highest mountain after the Polish-American hero Tadeusz Kościuszko.

Most recently, Australians welcomed the President of Poland, His Excellency Mr Andrzej Duda, and Mrs Agata Kornhauser-Duda, in August this year.

So perhaps today is a celebration not only of Polish independence, but of the enduring links between our nations, and the exceptional contributions made by those who have made this land their home.

Today, more than 180,000 Australians claim Polish ancestry, and I thank them for their part in building our prosperity and national well-being.

With these thoughts in mind, and in a warm spirit of friendship, I send my best wishes to everyone celebrating today.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Morrison', written in a cursive style.

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of Australia

5 November 2018