



PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

**MESSAGE: 2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
HEALTHY AGEING & LONGEVITY**

I am pleased to send my very best wishes to those participating in the 2nd International Conference on Healthy Ageing and Longevity at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on 18-20 March 2005.

The international trend towards an increase in the proportion of older people in our population brings both challenges and opportunities. This conference is important in bringing world experts together to discuss how we face some of these challenges and benefit from these opportunities. It will enable representatives from government, research, the medical profession and the broader community to share information and ideas.

My government has established a strong record in making a tangible and significant difference to the day-to-day lives of older Australians. We have invested significantly in order to improve the sustainability of aged care services in Australia and continue to support programmes that help older people to live healthy, productive lives and continue to be active in our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the event organisers, the International Research Centre for Healthy Ageing and Longevity, on convening a conference on this important issue and wish all those in attendance well for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'John Howard' in a cursive style.

(John Howard)