



April 2012  
Iyar 5772

### Message from the Ambassador of Israel to Australia

On the eve of Yom Haatzmaut, it gives me pleasure to send greetings to NIF Australia and to acknowledge the commitment of the New Israel Fund to the vision in our Declaration of Independence, of Israel as both the Jewish homeland and a shared society at peace with itself and its neighbours.

For more than three decades, NIF has been strengthening Israeli organisations and leaders, working to achieve equality for all citizens of the State, to realise the civil and human rights of all, to reinforce the essential pluralism of Israeli society and to empower groups on the margins of Israel's economy.

On Yom Haatzmaut we celebrate the rebirth of our homeland as an entity that reunited a people scattered across the globe for over 2000 years, we also pause to consider the profound outstanding issues Israel continues to face.

Yet though we face a future with many outstanding issues, we are comforted and uplifted by the spirited celebrations and public declarations of friendship occurring in Diaspora communities across the globe. The State of Israel is humbled by the support of what is perhaps one of the most loyal and devoted Diasporas in this world. Accordingly, this Yom Haatzmaut celebration is twofold; rejoicing 64 years of the Jewish State, and its Zionist supporters across the globe.

It is therefore a true pleasure to share Israel's Independence Day with the Australian community; a community whose warmth and friendship can be traced from Israel's very establishment, to the current day. On behalf of all Israel, I joyfully and gratefully thank the people of Australia for your unique history of support, friendship and cooperation throughout our 64 years of existence as a nation reborn.

I wish you all Yom Haatzmaut Sameach.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Yuval Rotem'.

Yuval Rotem  
Ambassador of Israel

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