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### **Message to the participants of the Sikh Youth Australia's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Camp**

It is with great pleasure that I send my best wishes to the Sikh Youth Australia's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Camp.

Sikhs have been in Australia since the 1800s and continue to make a significant contribution to the Australian nation. While most early Sikh settlers came to Australia to work in agricultural areas and some as cameleers in Central Australia, today they participate in almost every aspect of community life.

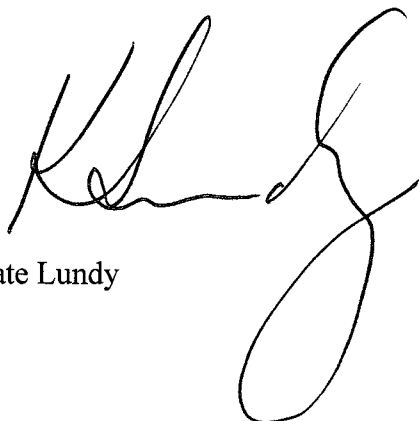
Australia's rich cultural diversity is one of our greatest national strengths. Sikh communities have demonstrated their commitment to Australia while continuing to maintain their religious and cultural traditions.

Young people have an important role to play in building a socially cohesive and inclusive multicultural society. These young people may grow to become leaders, and opportunities like the Annual Youth Camp help prepare them for their future roles.

I am sure that the Annual Youth Camp will also provide an enjoyable learning environment where they can gain further knowledge about their religion, customs, history and culture.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the previous generations of Sikh Australians who prevailed over many obstacles through sheer determination and hard work to succeed and prosper.

I wish organisers and participants of the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Camp every success.



Kate Lundy