PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI
THAILAND

On 26 December 2004, a magnitude nine earthquake off northern Sumatra triggered one of the worst natural disasters in modern times.

The tsunamis that swept across the Indian Ocean caused massive loss of life and total devastation.

More than 200,000 people died and over a million were left injured or homeless.

Thailand was terribly affected, with over 8,000 people killed. Thousands more were displaced and many lost everything.

The thoughts and prayers of all Australians were with the people of Thailand and its neighbours on that day, as news of the horrific events reached the rest of the world.

This 10th anniversary is a time to commemorate the lives that were tragically lost.

This is also an opportunity to pay tribute to all that were involved in the search, rescue and rebuilding efforts.

In the aftermath of the tsunamis, Prime Minister John Howard said this catastrophe had brought the world closer together:

"It has been a brutal reminder of the force of nature but also of the inspiring capacity of mankind to ease the suffering of others in their hour of need."

Ten years on, we remember that the worst of times can bring out the best in people, and that the bonds of friendship our countries share has never been stronger.

Today, Australians stand united with the people of Thailand in remembrance.

The Hon Tony Abbott MP
Prime Minister of Australia