



Statement on the 90th Birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama

As His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama will celebrate his 90th birthday this year, the Australian All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet would like to offer our deepest respect and heartfelt congratulations to His Holiness the Dalai Lama and wish him a long and healthy life to continue to serve humanity and all sentient beings.

As Australian Parliamentarians, we recognise the efforts of the Dalai Lama for a peaceful resolution to the Sino-Tibet conflict. The Dalai Lama has steadfastly committed himself to a non-violent pathway and securing a resolution with the Chinese Government through dialogue. The members of the Australian All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet call on the Chinese Government to re-engage with the Dalai Lama and his representatives in dialogue to establish genuine autonomy for Tibetans within China.

We are concerned about the future of the institution of the Dalai Lama and reiterate that Tibetan people are entitled to their fundamental rights and freedoms, including the right to choose their own religious and spiritual leaders without government interference.

For centuries, Tibetans have been the environmental stewards of the unique Tibetan landscape and have built beautiful cultural traditions. While visiting Dharamsala, and also engaging with the communities of Tibetan-Australians here in Australia, we have been invited to experience the unique culture of Tibet. As representatives of the Australian Parliament, we recognise that the Tibetan people should be empowered to freely choose their economic, social, cultural and religious policies without interference, including the right to self-determination.

We admire the Dalai Lama's commitment to humanitarian efforts and his tireless advocacy for peace and justice. During his many visits to Australia and around the world, the Dalai Lama has inspired countless individuals with his message of compassion and the oneness of humanity.

As we celebrate the birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, we offer our sincere gratitude for his teachings of peace and compassion. We wish him continued health and happiness, and hope the human rights of Tibetans will be respected and Tibetans will know peace in our lifetime.

Susan Templeman MP

Senator Dean Smith

Senator Barbara Pocock

Co-Chairs of Australian All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet