

A special G'Day to all the students and teachers attending this year's High Resolves Summit.

I'm sorry I can't be with you today as Parliament is sitting here in Canberra. But I want you to know that you are doing important work - dealing with important challenges for the future of our nation and our world.

I believe it's never too early for young people to start engaging with the big future challenges that are going to shape all of our futures. And it's never too soon to start making a difference and that's what High Resolves is all about. The Australian Government strongly supports the development of youth leaders in our society. We're currently developing a National Strategy for Young Australians which will capture the ideas from young people about the type of nation we aspire to be: a nation that doesn't shy away from the big challenges; that stands ready to do what is needed to secure our economy; to build a fairer society; to confront climate change head on and to act as custodians of our precious natural resources.

A nation in which young people's voices and experiences are heard and respected. To help build a world in which all young Australians get a fair go, give it a fair go, and give others a fair go as well. And a nation in which young people are actively supported to negotiate the challenges they face, to grow up safe, healthy and with the skills, confidence and resilience to participate fully in community life.

We are serious about young people having a say in our future, in our country's future. As the high resolves motto says, it really is *our world, our choice*.

As part of the National Strategy for Young People, the Australian Government will be providing funding of fifty thousand dollars to High Resolves to expand its youth leadership program to young people in disadvantaged communities. This will extend leadership opportunities to young people in areas where there's often greater challenges, like higher rates of unemployment, fewer services and fewer opportunities for people to get out into their community. The program will be piloted next year in six to eight high schools in south-west Sydney.

So make the most of the summit, and I wish you the best in putting today's lessons into action – in the weeks ahead, months ahead, in the years ahead and for the rest of your lives.

Thank you.