



PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

NSW FATHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

I regret that I cannot be with you today to celebrate this announcement of the New South Wales Father of the Year. As someone who is a previous recipient of the award I know the honour that is associated with this tribute.

This award continues to be a celebration of family life. It draws upon the tremendous breadth of experience of many different members of our community and serves to remind us of what is truly important in our lives.

I am delighted that this year's New South Wales Father of the Year has been awarded to Steve Biddulph. Steve's work has been widely acclaimed and I am sure that all Australians will be pleased that he has received this particular recognition for the priority which he has given to his own family.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Community Father of the Year, Aidan Grimes. The recipients of these awards further demonstrates that strong family life remains the cornerstone of the Australian way of life.

I applaud the winners of these awards and hope that all parents gain inspiration from their example.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Howard'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'J'.

(John Howard)