



THE HON ALEX HAWKE MP
MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP, MIGRANT SERVICES AND
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MESSAGE FOR POHELA BOISHAKH

Best wishes to all Australians preparing to celebrate Pohela Boishakh, the Bengali New Year.

The New Year presents itself as a time for reflection on the achievements and challenges of the past year, and a time of hope and optimism as we look ahead to the coming year.

Signifying the first month of the traditional Bengali calendar and the harvest time in the northern hemisphere, I hope all those joining in Pohela Boishakh gatherings celebrate the opportunities this New Year brings.

The past year has been a challenging time, during which many of us were separated from our loved ones. As we begin our recovery from the pandemic, may we look forward to vibrant events such as this with a renewed sense of joy and cherish the time we spend with those around us.

The Bengali Australian community are to be commended for their continuous contributions to Australia, particularly in the education, health and community services sectors. Regardless of size, the community epitomises the values of respect, generosity and equality that make Australia the cohesive nation it is today.

Enjoy this time of celebration and I wish you all happiness, good health and prosperity in the year ahead.

Shubho Noboborsho!

ALEX HAWKE