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Our Ref:

YOUNG AUSTRALIAN WRITERS' AWARDS

MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

I would like to warmly congratulate everyone involved in the Young Australian Writers' Awards. Particular congratulations must go to all the award winners for the quality of the inspiring pieces of literature you have created, as well as to your supportive and dedicated parents and teachers.

Setting the foundations for learning and encouraging a love for the written word is one of the most precious gifts we can give our young people. Fostering and encouraging this interest has enormous benefits for the individual, as well as the wider community. Encouraging self-expression through writing allows children to develop into adults who are articulate communicators, able to make valuable contributions to society, as members of the local community, as Victorians and as Australians.

I would therefore like to congratulate the Australian Children's Literary Board for providing this opportunity for young people to develop their writing skills, and to be recognised for their natural talent, hard work and dedication in writing these pieces of literature. The Board should also be congratulated for providing the opportunity for ALL young people, including those with learning difficulties, to be praised and encouraged in the area of literacy. Building confidence in these young people, who are not often recognised for their achievements, provides the foundations for further success.

I wish the Board, students, parents and teachers every success for the future.

HON STEVE BRACKS MP
Premier of Victoria