



THE HON ANDREW GILES MP
MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP AND
MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

MESSAGE FOR UKRAINE INDEPENDENCE DAY

Australia stands with Ukraine today as you mark 31 years of independence.

Six months have passed since the commencement of the illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Australia strongly supports Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and we share in your concerns for friends and families overseas. The resilience of your community is an inspiration to all.

On this day, the Australian Government reaffirms its commitment to support displaced Ukrainians and their immediate family members.

Since 23 February 2022, the Department of Home Affairs has granted nearly 9,000 visas to Ukrainians and close to 4,400 have since arrived in Australia.

In late July, the Government made available to Ukrainian nationals and their immediate family members additional visa pathways and last week announced a further \$550,000 for Ukrainian and other community organisations to expand their vital work of supporting the Ukrainian community, ahead of Independence Day today.

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring Ukrainians can continue to reside in the Australian community with access to work, health, education and visa support services, and live in our peaceful country.

We acknowledge and celebrate the contributions Ukrainian Australians have made to the rich tapestry that is modern multicultural Australia. Australia's diversity is a national strength. Our success as a cohesive and vibrant democracy is built on shared values, through which we enjoy the freedom to express ourselves, respect one another, and rally to support each other in times of need.

I wish the Ukrainian community across Australia peace and strength as you mark Ukraine Independence Day.

ANDREW GILES