



Paul Keating



PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

### TRIBUTE TO MRS LENA GUSTIN MBE - "MAMMA LENA"

It is a great pleasure to add my voice to all those who are gathering to pay tribute to you, Mamma Lena, on the celebration of your 80th birthday. Turning 80 is a significant achievement for any person, but it is a special occasion indeed when it is the birthday of one who has done as much as you have to foster the welfare and cultural life of your community.

This commemorative booklet records the details of your work for the Italian community almost from the moment of your arrival in Australia in 1957. It traces your contributions to a host of causes through *La Fiamma*, *Sorella Radio*, the *Associazione Nazionale Famiglie degli Emigranti* and other organisations. It is a record of which you yourself, and members of the community, may all feel justly proud.

Through your work, Mamma Lena, you have helped not only in a very practical sense, but even more importantly, through your columns and broadcasts, you have helped change the perceptions of government and other authorities as to what it means to be an immigrant, and of the expectations and needs that new settlers bring with them. You have helped form our nation into the vibrant multicultural society that it is today.

I am happy to see that both the Australian and Italian governments have formally recognised your tireless work for the Italian community in Australia by conferring respectively the rank of MBE and the *Croce di Cavaliere*. On a more personal note, I would like to add my own congratulations.

Your friends will honour your achievements today, and I hope that this gathering will demonstrate the gratitude and thanks of all the members of the community for your dedication to their welfare over so many years.

*Grazie e tantissimi auguri*

P J KEATING