

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP**

**WA Samoa Association Inc.**

**Independence Day Celebration**

**Regional Sporting and Community Centre, Success**

**on 6 June 2016**

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Talofa (Hello)

I am delighted to be here today with my wife Patricia to join in the Samoa Independence Day celebrations.

I acknowledge the Nyungar people who are the traditional custodians of this land that we are meeting on today. I pay respect to the Elders past and present of the Nyungar nation knowing they are the first nation people of this vast land called Australia.

I acknowledge:

- Ms Ella Maea, Chairperson, WA Samoa Association Inc. and your committee members;
- Members of the Samoa, Polynesian, Maori, Tonga, Niue, Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea and other communities that are here today;
- Stall Holders, Entertainers;
- Ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys.

Thank you for choosing the Success Regional Sporting & Community Centre for this year's Samoa Independence Day celebrations.

The importance of observing important events that reflect on each and every one of us and our history, no matter where we are living at a given point in time ensures that as we go forward in life we always stop and reflect on the importance of where we have been.

Achieving independence for any nation is of crucial importance to its people and all that follow in their footsteps.

The promotion of your music, song, dance, island food, and importantly, your heritage, sends a clear message to those who know and understand the journey that you have been on, where it has led you and your dreams and aspirations for the future.

As a Pacific island nation we all know that there will be celebration in the capital Apia and around the world today reflecting the pride and enthusiasm of Samoans and other nearby island nations.

Australia has been blessed with the arrival of people on its shores from the four corners of the earth. As the most multi-cultural nation in the world we have the richness and diversity of culture that complements our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples history and culture that is progressively emerging on the world stage.

*According to the Lonely Planet Guide and I quote:*

*“Serene but spirited, wild yet well-manicured, hushed but birthed by volcanic explosions; stunning Samoa is a*

*paradisaical paradox. Despite its intense natural beauty – all iridescent seas, jade jungles and crystal waterfalls – this is a humble place, devoid of mega-resorts and flashy attractions, but with welcomes as warm as the island sun... “ Unquote*

In closing I acknowledge and thank the WA Samoa Association and the other islander communities represented here today for the outstanding organisation of this event through their volunteer resources.

You have done a great job to ensure the day will be one of fond memories for all who have attended and a fitting tribute to the Samoan Independence Day celebration in Perth.

Fa’afetai (Thank you).