



A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF AIR FORCE & WARRANT OFFICER - AIR FORCE

To our Air Force family,

As the Chief of Air Force and Warrant Officer of the Air Force, it has been our honour to lead the Royal Australian Air Force for another year and for a small part of our first 100 years, as the future looks bright. The qualities that have served us well during our first Century, will be our foundation as we springboard into the next 100 years.

Air Force was called upon this year to respond to challenges at home and on the international stage. The impacts of COVID-19 continued to be felt across Australia with outbreaks and lockdowns a sobering reality for some of our states and territories. Not only did you respond to these with incredible resilience, many of you had an additional layer of complexity, home-schooling. Our Aviators, quickly adapted to support their preschool, primary and high school children.

Further from home, you stepped up to support our international partners in the Middle East where your unwavering, kind and assuring presence to people in trouble was a very proud moment for us. These efforts demonstrated our Defence Values of Service, Courage, Respect, Integrity, and Excellence.

Celebrating our Centenary has been a time to reflect on all we have achieved, but as we move into 2022, we must now set our sights on the future. Defining our culture is an integral part of that future and this year we released 'Our Air Force, Our Culture' which calls on us to remain resilient, consistent and inclusive.

Summers in Australia are notoriously unpredictable and like previous years, some of you may be called on to respond to emergencies alongside our Navy, Army and civilian partners. Responding to these vital tasks demonstrates Air Force's commitment to community and country. Should you be called upon, we will also make sure we support you and your families to stay safe.

If you have plans to travel over the festive season, please keep abreast of any relevant restrictions, border closures or abrupt changes to your destination. Use the latest Defence and government advice, and seek clarification through your chain of command if required. Be mindful that we always represent Air Force, even when out of uniform. Our deployed Aviators are not far from our minds and we are immensely proud of your efforts. It's never easy to be away from home and loved ones at this time of the year, and your contributions are highly valued and very much appreciated.

Your resilience and professionalism during another challenging year has been remarkable and we would like to thank each and every one of you. It has not gone unnoticed.

Until then, Merry Christmas to you all. We wish your family and friends our best wishes and hopes for a restful festive season.

Sincerely,

Mel Hupfeld
Chief of Air Force

Fee Grasby
Warrant Officer of the Air Force