PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

MESSAGE: 2004 CONSENSUS SOFTWARE AWARDS

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the winners and finalists of the 2004 Consensus Software Awards.

A nation's wealth and its innovative capacity are strongly connected. A culture of ingenuity and the adoption of innovative practices serve to enhance Australia's economic, social and environmental well-being.

The government fosters creativity through sound economic policies and programmes to encourage industry development, investment and innovation. These factors, coupled with Australia's sophisticated infrastructure, highly skilled workforce and willingness to embrace new ideas and technologies, make Australia an ideal base to develop software.

The 2004 Consensus Software Awards showcase the creativity and competitiveness of the Australian software industry. I commend the awards for encouraging and promoting excellence in software design. I wish all participants in the awards every success in the future.

(John Howard)