

*Mr Godd*



## PRIME MINISTER

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### ELECTORAL TALK

Just on 100 days ago the Australian people elected the Liberal-National Country Party coalition to lead the nation for the next three years.

They made no bones about what they wanted.

First, they asked us to rescue the nation from a level of inflation and unemployment that was attacking the social fabric of every section of society. A climate of uncertainty, doubt, and fear put strong pressure on family relationships. It hit business, large and small. Farmers cried out in vain for help as independent IAC reports on the rural industry were consistently ignored.

Australians also asked us to restore decency and integrity back into Government. They wanted politicians that were accountable first to the Parliament.

As Leader of the new Government, I told Australians that our first commitment was to beat and then shackle inflation. I said it would be a full three year job.

We could not simply wave a magic wand. Unlike Labour we could not just close our eyes and hope the problem would vanish. We could not constantly look for scapegoats, yet still do nothing.

We had to start being responsible and accountable to the Australian electorate for our actions. We had to look at our own expenditure, and balance it against receipts. In other words, we had to start making decisions that would hurt for a while; we had to start saying 'no'.

Today Australians are acutely aware of Labour's legacy - the highest unemployment since the Depression, a \$7,000 million deficit over two years, business confidence shot to ribbons and the real worth of pensions and welfare programmes destroyed by inflation.

Australians know of our task to help rebuild the private business sector and the rural community. They know we have to slow down the massive growth in the Federal Government sector.

Australians now know that everything has a price, including Government programmes. Everyone pays. Under Labour the programmes got out of hand, they were often badly administered and as a result they ran inefficiently and at great cost.

During my Government's first 100 days in office, we have returned to responsibility in economic management.

Our economies in the public service, the Bland inquiry, our monetary measures, have knitted together to start Australia back on the road to economic recovery.

The Government's programmes are now well administered in the Parliament. Many people do not seem to understand that a vitally important part of Government is the dull - and often difficult - slog of spending hours behind a desk as a manager.

I said earlier that Australians also wanted us to restore integrity to the national Parliament, and to Government.

In the first 100 days in office the Government has launched its policy to restore authority and responsibility back to the States and local government.

Under the policy the States will once again be responsible for the money they spend.

We are already examining how we will introduce a system of personal income taxation, which will at last protect peoples' earnings against inflation.

This will stop government raising its tax revenue without telling the people what it is doing.

It will make Government honest again. If they want to raise taxation they will have to say so.

Politicians in Australia have made too many promises. Australia cannot afford them all. Politicians have sought to buy votes by promising more than the nation's resources permit governments to provide.

In other words, the Government's aim is to give people greater control over their own earnings. People will be able to spend that money more wisely for themselves than it has been spent in the past by big government.

Our programmes will bring inflation under control, and secure jobs for all who want to work. Australia will once again start to produce more and the resultant real wealth will enable us to provide the services - the schools, aid to the disadvantaged, protection for the environment - that the nation requires and that people today expect.

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