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**PRIME MINISTER**

FOR MEDIA

9 NOVEMBER 1988

I consider the implementation of the affirmative action legislation as documented in the annual report of the Affirmative Action agency to be an outstanding success.

The tremendous response in the first reporting year gives me great hope that the labour market for women is changing towards a fuller appreciation of the contribution women can and do make to our economy.

Affirmative action legislation sought the co-operation of employers to help achieve my Government's aim of eliminating discrimination against women in the workforce.

The 99 per cent compliance rate shown by companies with over 1000 employees and higher education institutions does credit to them. I congratulate them.

The result is of very great significance to Australian women. They can increasingly look forward to more equal opportunities in the workforce. It gives Australian women the chance to compete for more jobs and better jobs.

Australia's largest employers have set a fine example for their smaller counterparts to follow. They have demonstrated their readiness to change and the spirit which has made Australia a world leader in labour market reforms.