



# PRIME MINISTER

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP**

## **TWO MINUTES SILENCE**

I urge all Australians to observe two minutes silence at midday (Eastern Standard Time) next Tuesday August 15 to mark the 50th Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific Day.

By observing the two minute silence in capital cities, regional centres, country towns and in the suburbs, we will all express our gratitude to those men and women who defended freedom and democracy, and delivered peace to Australia.

Together, during those two minutes, we can reflect on the achievements of the men and women between 1939 and 1945 who united in this great cause.

Approximately 40,000 names of Australians who died during the war are recorded on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial. About one million people were under arms and many more people worked tirelessly to sustain the war effort at home and bring up families.

Many communities around Australia have already incorporated two minutes of silence at midday in their VP-Day calendar. I understand some communities have decided to sound air raid sirens before the two minute silence as a gesture to mark those war years.

I hope State and Territory Governments, Local Governments, the business community, church leaders and the union movement will support the two minute silence and encourage the people of Australia to unite again for this important 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

**CANBERRA  
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