



89/95

PRIME MINISTER

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STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP RESIGNATION OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL

The Queen's announcement of the resignation of the Honourable Bill Hayden as Governor-General marks the end of a distinguished term of service by a most highly respected Australian in this high office.

On behalf of the Government, I place on record our appreciation of Mr Hayden's service to his country and our deep respect for the way in which he has carried out his duties. He will be relinquishing his appointment after seven years in office, the second longest term served by a Governor-General. It was a measure of our admiration for the contribution that he was making that the Government asked if he would extend his term for a period of two years.

Bill Hayden's compassionate and inclusive style and his interest and concern for Australians of all walks of life have been complemented by the warmth and commitment which his wife, Dallas, has brought to Yarralumla. They have earned the affection of millions of Australians.

As Bill steps down from office I extend, on behalf of the Australian people, our good wishes and our hope that he and Dallas will continue to enjoy health and happiness in the years ahead.

**CANBERRA
21 August 1995**