



PRIME MINISTER

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER THE HON P J KEATING MP
1996 PRIME MINISTERIAL WOMEN AND SPORT AWARDS**

There has been a suggestion that Samantha Riley has been excluded from the Prime Ministerial Women and Sport Awards.

Winners of these awards are selected by a committee under the auspices of the Australian Sports Commission and are not decided by the Prime Minister or the Office of the Prime Minister.

Reports of intervention by my Office following publicity surrounding the unfortunate incident involving Samantha Riley are completely without foundation, as confirmed by the Australian Sports Commission.

As in previous years, the committee will decide the winners of this year's awards and I will be delighted to honour the achievements of those selected.

All Australians feel great sympathy for the predicament Samantha Riley has found herself in as a result of the inadvertent use of a banned substance. She remains one of a number of outstanding Australian sportswomen and teams in contention for the Prime Ministerial Women and Sport Awards and for my own part I would be more than happy to present her with this award should she be the committee's choice.

I confess to being a great fan of hers and I wish her well.

**MELBOURNE
14 FEBRUARY 1996**

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