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PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 592

10 November 1975

PROFESSOR R.I. DOWNING

I was deeply shocked to hear of Professor Downing's death. The loss of this outstanding Australian will be keenly felt in his own country and abroad. There was scarcely an area of our intellectual and artistic life that he did not adorn with his wisdom, his experience and with the singular warmth and force of his personality.

I took special satisfaction from his appointment as Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Commission in 1973. He brought remarkable tolerance and sensitivity to his guidance of the ABC and high liberal principles to the difficult area of program standards.

For more than 20 years he was associated with the University of Melbourne as an academic economist and administrator. He was on the Boards of the National Gallery of Victoria and the Melbourne Theatre Company. He made a lasting contribution to the Arts as a member of the Australia Council.

As an economist and social critic identified with the most enlightened causes, Richard Downing was in the great humane tradition of Keynes and Galbraith. I extend, on behalf of the Government, my deepest sympathy to his widow and family and express my personal sorrow in the loss sustained by his many friends and by all his countrymen.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.