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PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

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European Earthquake

I was shocked at the reports of the earthquake that has caused chaos throughout a large part of Europe.

Government Departments (Department of Foreign Affairs and Department of Post and Telecommunications) have been asked to assist in arranging contact and information concerning Australians that could be affected.

The Australian Government deplores the loss of life and the devastation that leaves families homeless.

To the many thousands of friends and relatives of the victims - particularly those living in the heavy migrant populated cities of Australia - I extend my government's sincere sympathies.

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