

MEDIA RELEASE

FLINDERS BY-ELECTION

(Statement by the Acting Prime Minister, the
Rt Hon J.D. Anthony, C.H., M.P.)

I congratulate Mr Peter Reith on his election as the new Member for Flinders.

In the current difficult economic climate, and taking account of normal by-election trends, the result in Flinders is a very good one indeed for Mr Reith and the Government.

The Flinders campaign was fought largely on national issues.

In supporting Mr Reith, the people of Flinders have maintained their support for the Government's firm and decisive response to the effects in Australia of economic problems being felt around the world, and rejected the proposals of the Labor Party.

I believe the Government's call for a 12-month pause in wage rises, to ease growing unemployment pressures and boost Australia's international competitiveness, has had a significant bearing on the result in Flinders.

I very much hope that is noted by the State Premiers, whose backing for a 12-month wage pause I will be seeking at the Premiers Conference in Canberra this week.

CANBERRA
5 December 1982