



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

SUNDAY, 5 DECEMBER 1982

The Prime Minister today sent the following message to the new Liberal Member for Flinders, Mr Peter Reith.

"Warmest congratulations on an outstanding campaign and a great result, especially so since 1982 has been a difficult year.

Flinders was seen as a litmus test on the national political scene.

In all the circumstances of a by-election the result must be regarded as an endorsement of the Government.

I am sorry I was not able to campaign for you personally and extend my thanks and congratulations to your campaign team and all those who devoted so much time and energy to keeping Flinders for the Government.

You retained Flinders on the issues of Government policies and put national responsibility before political expediency.

The electorate chose well and I look forward to having you in the Government team in Canberra.

Warm Regards.

(Malcolm Fraser)"

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