



# PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

WEDNESDAY, 26 JANUARY 1983

## CITIZENSHIP WEEK

The Government strongly believes that more should be done to promote a greater sense of Australian national identity and citizenship. As a result, the Government is proposing that a Citizenship Week should be celebrated every year beginning on 26 January 1984.

A Citizenship Week will provide an opportunity for national organisations and community groups to conduct activities which emphasise our national identity and what it means to be an Australian. This will help us all to reflect on the rights, duties, privileges and responsibilities we share as Australian citizens. I hope it will also encourage eligible residents to apply for the legal status of Australian citizenship to enable them to become fully participating members of our society.

Citizenship Week will begin in 1984 and I hope that community groups in particular will give thought to the sort of activities which would draw out our commonality of interests and national identity while at the same time recognising the rich contribution our multicultural heritage makes to Australian society.

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