



PRIME MINISTER

For media

Wednesday, 30 March 1983

Traditionally Easter is a time when Australians take the opportunity for holidays or travel.

Unfortunately, it has also been one of the worst periods on the nation's roads.

Over the next few days all Australians can contribute to avoiding the tragedy and suffering caused by the road toll.

It is encouraging to note the recent success of efforts to reduce the road toll.

Random breath testing, for example, has had a significant impact.

More than 100 people are alive in NSW alone, because of random breathtesting, who might otherwise have died on our roads in the last few months.

Tougher traffic law enforcement, wider application of random breath testing and effective TV advertising campaigns have combined to assist in reducing death on our roads.

But in the end the answer to the problem lies with motorists.

Australians do not need long lectures on using the roads carefully.

However, I would like to make three important requests to those driving at Easter:

- be patient and don't take unnecessary risks during your journey. An extra hour or so travelling will still leave plenty of time over the long-weekend;
- don't drive after having too much to drink. The risks are too great;
- make sure everyone in your car uses a seat belt. They are proven life-savers.

Of prime concern at this time are our children.

Whether they be passengers, cyclists or pedestrians, we owe it to them to set a good example, and to protect them by all driving responsibly.

People in a mature, caring society can act in ways to demonstrate a concern for others as well as themselves.

I believe Australia is such a society.