



## PRIME MINISTER

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER  
NINETEENTH NATIONAL HOUSING CONVENTION  
THE SIR PHILLIP LYNCH AWARD FOR  
OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE HOUSING INDUSTRY  
ADELAIDE - 14 APRIL 1984

Mr President, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Whilst Sir Phillip and I may have somewhat differing political views, I hold him in high regard and am saddened that he is so unwell. I deem it both a pleasure and a privilege to act on his behalf in the presentation of the Award which bears his name.

This year the Award is to be presented to a man who has devoted 34 years of service to home seekers and to the home building industry through his work in the building society movement in New South Wales, and both nationally and internationally.

Today he is Managing Director of one of Australia's largest Permanent Building Societies. In this capacity, he has been responsible for many financial innovations that have helped home seekers to home ownership, and by this means he has also helped New South Wales builders to build more homes. I am, of course, referring to Jim Wills, A.M.

Jim pioneered flexibility in lending for housing in New South Wales.

He developed the Joint Income Scheme; he made tangible inroads into discrimination against women and lone parents in the criteria for home lending; he was one of the leaders who led the way for high ratio loans to assist young couples to bridge the deposit gap; and he was responsible, more recently, for the development and introduction of the Deferred Interest Scheme, to help young couples cope with higher interest rates and attain home ownership.

Jim has served the industry in various capacities. He is a Past President of the Building Societies Institute of New South Wales; Past President of the Australian Association of Permanent Building Societies Advisory Committee to the New South Wales State Government; a member of the Financial Advisory Committee of the AAPBS; a member of the International Union of Building Societies and Savings Associations; and was Chairman of the International School in Australia in 1979.

I would single out Jim's role in securing the prestigious International School for Australia in 1979.

That event brought international recognition of the efforts of the industry in Australia in the field of housing finance and development. A recognition well deserved!

Jim Wills has been, and still is, a strong and innovative leader in an industry which is vital to those in need of housing, and to those who build homes. Many families who now have homes owe their ability to finance them to his leadership in pioneering flexible home lending practices.

The effects of this leadership do not remain just with the families who have been helped. The whole fabric of society has benefited by such leadership and the economic benefits to the broader community have been of major significance.

Many industry and government leaders who have witnessed Mr Wills' tireless efforts over a long period of distinguished service, believe that he is richly deserving of the 1984 Award.

I congratulate him on his many outstanding achievements within the Housing Industry, and on behalf of Sir Phillip Lynch I now ask Mr Wills to come forward and accept the Award.

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