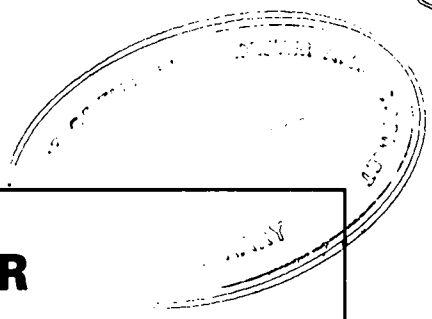




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**PRIME MINISTER**

FOR MEDIA

7 MARCH 1991

**EMBARGOED UNTIL MIDNIGHT**

**JOINT STATEMENT WITH THE MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE STATUS OF WOMEN, WENDY FATIN**

The establishment of a National Child Protection Council, a Prime Ministerial award for the encouragement of women in sport, development of a major statement on women and the environment and the extension for three years of the Commonwealth/State Council on Non-English Speaking Background Women's Issues are among initiatives announced by the Government for International Women's Day today.

This year's initiatives will build on progress already made by the Government in the implementation of its National Agenda for Women.

Since the Government took office in 1983, we have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to improving the position of Australian women. That commitment has recognised that real equality is founded on encouragement from an early age, on access, on opportunity, on economic independence and physical well-being.

The initiatives announced today are aimed at enabling the women of Australia to participate to an even greater extent in the economic and social framework of this nation.

This Government leads the world with its comprehensive machinery and policies for raising the status of women. Today's initiatives will continue this process.

In addition to the four newly funded initiatives, we also announce a series of initiatives which will draw on existing funding.

These include the development of a national strategy for the implementation of the International Labour Organisation Convention 156 on Workers with Family Responsibilities, a new computer system monitoring the appointment of women to Government boards and authorities and the publication of a comprehensive statistical profile on women by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

A detailed list of the IWD initiatives is being distributed by Ms Fatin.