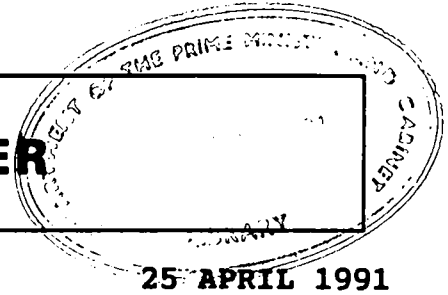




8

PRIME MINISTER



FOR MEDIA

25 APRIL 1991

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

Tomorrow is National Stop Domestic Violence Day.

The development of a national strategy for the elimination of violence against women was endorsed recently by the inaugural meeting of the Commonwealth-State Ministers' Conference on the Status of Women.

The national strategy will be developed by the National Committee on Violence Against Women, established late last year to carry out research and develop recommendations for new policies and programs aimed at eliminating violence against women.

April 26 has again been proclaimed National Stop Domestic Violence Day to remind all Australians that domestic violence is a crime and is unacceptable.

This Government will continue to reinforce the message that domestic violence cannot be tolerated.

Violence perpetrated against women inside and outside the home has been witnessed in frightening proportions in this country and around the world.

The development of a national strategy will provide a comprehensive and coordinated framework for eliminating violence against women. We need to engage the cooperation of all levels of government and the community. Everyone, everywhere must become intolerant of domestic violence.

This is a meaningful turning point in Australia's approach to this widespread and complex issue. The strategy will provide a foundation for the future development of policies and programs aimed at eliminating violence against women.