



## PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP,  
REV. HOLLINGWORTH, AND SIMON BAILEY  
DOORSTOP, AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR, ADMIRALTY HOUSE, SYDNEY  
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PM: I've been a good listener. I've met him a few times, this fellow, over the years. But I was particularly pleased with Peter, that someone representing the softer values of Australia was up there as Australian of the Year. Which is a nice thing for this country.

J: What are you planning to do this year?

REV: Well apart from running a diocese I am doing something about renewing the life of the church and finishing off a cathedral, I want to get into raising money to help young people who can't get into the workforce, who can't get traineeships. And already with the support of the Federal Government through our employment action centres, we have a got a very good program going in two States of Australia, and I hope we can extend that. And I hope we can get some money in to help young people who would otherwise take advantage of all that.

J: How do you feel about winning the award?

REV: Overwhelmed mostly. I think you can only accept it on behalf of other people, not on your own behalf.

J: Well, Mr Hawke told you that you to butt out, that you didn't know what you were talking about. Is that the case?

REV: No, he didn't quite say it as directly as that. He suggested that I should stick to my area of responsibility and he would stick to his.

J: Will you be sticking to your area of responsibility?

REV: Well I think we are all concerned about the building up of a just, efficient, caring, participatory Australia, and we will work together in partnership, I'm sure.

PM: Absolutely

J: Will this be shown in your economic statement Mr Keating?

PM: Well, as I see it that will be essentially the essence of it because a country without fairness and equity is a country that does not understand itself well. And we will be continuing to keep a focus on those values.

J: Mr Keating, will traineeships be a specific be part of the Economic Statement?

PM: Well I can't say what is in the Economic Statement, but the labour market area has traditionally been an area of concern to us and most particular at this time, including and especially for young people.

J: Simon how do you feel?

SB: Overawed, actually. I'm very honoured. I'm sure there are many young people in this country who are equally deserving of this honour.

J: What do you plan to do now?

SB: Get back to training if I can. After I start the National Championships in early March I go to Arizona to perform there, so I have got to get back into peak condition.

J: Does this vindicate your statement from last year, Archbishop?

REV: I think this has nothing to do with my statement last year.

J: You're not, you're certain you're not ...

REV: No I do not. I think it's to do with a long term commitment to justice and the care of the poor over many, many years. I think that's the issue really. You don't achieve these things, flash in the pan activities. Because it is those who are the long-term stayers, that are going to achieve something.

J: But surely perhaps some of those statements, that at the time were a little controversial, are major step in campaign to actually get things done?

REV: There is nothing wrong with controversy as long as it speaks the truth, and as long as it keeps the issues before people who are in a position to make decisions. I don't resile from any of that and I'm sure that the Prime Minister and everybody else would expect me to do it.

PM: If there are issues of substance, then controversy can often bring light to a subject. So there we are.

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