



PRIME MINISTER

148/92

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

The Government has decided today that the time has come to amend the Citizenship Act and the Oath of Allegiance.

The Government has proposed to introduce, at the earliest opportunity, a new preamble to the Citizenship Act which defines citizenship as a common bond involving reciprocal rights and obligations uniting all Australians.

The Legislation proposes that, in future, people seeking to become Australian citizens will pledge, or swear as an oath, the following:

"From this time forward, (under God)
I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people,
whose democratic beliefs I share,
whose rights and liberties I respect, and
whose laws I will uphold and obey."

Cabinet has agreed that the amended Citizenship Act and Oath of Allegiance will better reflect the contemporary reality of Australia and our national aspirations.

CANBERRA
17 DECEMBER 1992