



PRIME MINISTER

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP
AUSTRALIA DAY MESSAGE**

On Australia Day it is right that we should remember all that was done by earlier generations to build this country. But today I think it is appropriate to also remind ourselves that this generation of Australians has done as much as any other to preserve our way of life and make it safe in the years to come.

In the past decade we Australians have risen to meet the challenges posed by a dramatically changing world, and by our efforts we have given ourselves security and opportunities we would not otherwise now have. In doing this we have learned that we have the capacity to adapt. We have learned that we can compete with the best.

In the 1990s the chance is there for Australia: we can build for ourselves a more rewarding and dynamic place in the world, and particularly in our region, than we have ever had before. In our great natural wealth, in our collective skills and knowledge, in our will and strength of purpose, we have all we need to secure the future.

The challenges remain. With some of our major trading partners in recession or moving only slowly out of it, the hardship here will not quickly go away. This is a reality which must be squarely faced. Equally, we should acknowledge that we are doing better than most comparable countries, and that there is good reason to be confident.

In 1993 we will redouble our efforts to accelerate economic recovery, reduce unemployment and alleviate the stress which change has brought to Australians in their homes and workplaces. The great task for we Australians is to continue to confront necessity and make the changes, while doing all we can to reduce and share the burden.

Our success depends on our material and human resources, our natural wealth and our energy and ideas. It also depends on our faith in Australia and in each other, by how well we care for each other.

It will be good for us to be guided by these things in 1993, just as they have guided Australians through other challenging times.

I take this opportunity to wish all Australians a successful, safe and happy year.