



## **PRIME MINISTER**

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

#### **PHILIPPA SMITH TO BE NEW OMBUDSMAN**

I am pleased to announce that I will be recommending to the Governor-General that he appoint Ms Philippa Smith to be the next Commonwealth and Defence Force Ombudsman. I will propose that Ms Smith's appointment be for 5 years, commencing on 17 May 1993.

Ms Smith is the first woman to be appointed as Commonwealth Ombudsman. She brings to the Office an enormous range of experience in the public and private sector. She has held senior positions in the Australian Council of Social Services, the Australian Consumers Association and the NSW Department of Health. At present, she is a consultant with Issues Australia, where she has worked on complaint procedures in a variety of organisations and also a part-time member of the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Her career has been directed at ensuring that individual Australians are treated fairly.

I believe that Ms Smith is well-equipped to lead the Ombudsman's Office through the changes that may occur during the 1990s. Her predecessor, Mr Alan Cameron, was an important force for change and greater efficiency in the way the Ombudsman's Office dealt with its task and the way it was perceived by the public and I am confident that Ms Smith will show the same leadership.

I would also express my appreciation to Ms Lindsay Shaw, who has acted as Ombudsman following Mr Cameron's resignation, and to the other staff of the Office who have ensured that the Office Ms Smith takes over is able to meet the challenges of the future.

**CANBERRA**  
**21 April 1993**