



PRIME MINISTER

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

**REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT POLICY ADVICE MECHANISMS
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

Today I have asked Senator the Hon Rosemary Crowley, Minister Assisting me on the Status of Women, to chair a review of the Government's policy advice mechanisms on the status of women.

The Government is proud of its successful record of reform and innovation in this important policy area, and wants to ensure that its policy advice mechanisms remain appropriate, effective and responsive to the changing needs and interests of women. In particular the Government will review the functions of the Office of the Status of Women and the mechanisms for consulting and communicating with women in the community to ensure that women's interests are well represented to government and that the Government's policy priorities are implemented effectively.

I have asked Senator Crowley to advise on the functions and priorities of the Office of the Status of Women. Those priorities will include monitoring the implementation of the Government's policies for women announced during the election campaign, especially the new child-care policy. As well the Government will need continuing policy development work in the key areas affecting women - economics, health, employment, education and justice (including preventing violence against women).

The new functions will include developing a research facility able to identify longer term policy issues of relevance to women.

In preparing the report, there will be consultation with women's and other interested organisations as well as relevant Ministers, government departments and members of Parliament. The review is expected to take about three months.

CANBERRA
27 MAY 1993