



PRIME MINISTER

85/93

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP MEETING WITH THE REPUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In Canberra today I attended a meeting with the members of the Republic Advisory Committee.

We discussed the progress of their work, and the Committee informed me of the activities they had undertaken to meet their terms of reference. Close to 20,000 copies of the Issues Paper and of the Australian Constitution have been distributed by the Secretariat.

Since the Committee was established in April this year, it has held three formal meetings. The members have also had numerous discussions with interested parties, and consulted widely around Australia.

The Committee will shortly complete its schedule of public meetings in the capital cities and selected regional centres of all States and Territories.

To date the Committee has received around 400 submissions, considerably more than originally expected.

As a result, the Committee became concerned that its reporting deadline of 1 September 1993 would not allow sufficient time to consider fully all the public submissions, and to take account of them in developing options for their paper. They therefore requested an extension of their reporting date.

I have agreed to the requested extension and the Committee will now provide its report to me by 30 September 1993.

This one month extension will allow a corresponding extension of the cut-off date for public submissions to Monday 16 August 1993.

For those wishing to take advantage of the extended deadline for submissions, free copies of the Committee's Issues Paper and the Australian Constitution will continue to be available by dialling 008-620186.

**CANBERRA
21 JULY 1993**