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## PRIME MINISTER

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P.J. KEATING MP  
REPORT OF THE REPUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

I met with the Republic Advisory Committee this morning to receive its report "An Australian Republic - the Options".

The report is based on extensive consultations throughout Australia. It is substantial, thorough and professional and will provide an excellent basis for public debate.

The report canvasses a number of practical options for an Australian republic. While recognising that the issue is a complex one, it clearly demonstrates that Australia can become a republic without changing our current system of government.

As required by the Committee's terms of reference, the report makes no recommendations.

The Government does not have a timetable for a republic but it hopes to see a republican structure in place by the turn of the century. It is essential that people have time to consider the issues.

The report is being made available to the public to provide a factual base for community debate which must precede any change. For in the end it will be the people who decide whether Australia becomes a republic.

The Government will study the report carefully with a view to developing a considered position on the central issues.

To this end, I propose to establish a small working party of senior Ministers to consider the issues and develop a paper for Cabinet in the first half of next year.

The working party will include Gareth Evans, Kim Beazley, Michael Lavarch, Graham Richardson, Ros Kelly and Frank Walker.

I would like to thank Malcolm Turnbull and his colleagues on the Committee for the great dedication and energy they have brought to the task.

The report they have written will provide an invaluable resource for the people of Australia as we consider the destiny of our nation.

CANBERRA ACT  
5 October 1993

\*The Committee's Report, which is made up of two volumes, is available, together with a separate overview of the Report, from outlets of the Commonwealth Government Bookshop and by mail-order from the Australian Government Publishing Service on 008 020 049 (a 24 hour number) or by fax on (06) 295 4888.