



## **PRIME MINISTER**

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON. P.J. KEATING**

**WORK FOR AUSTRALIA - LODGE FUNCTION**

I have written to a number of individuals and organisations who assisted the "Work for Australia" Task Force, inviting them to an informal gathering at The Lodge next Sunday.

The task force, initiated by Mr Bill Kelty and Mr Lindsay Fox, was established last year to encourage employers to take on young Australians and to explore ways of better co-ordinating employment programs.

I want to take this opportunity to thank those who served on the task force as well as those from all over Australia who assisted in its deliberations.

By talking in an informal atmosphere with those involved I hope to acquaint myself as much as possible with the ideas which have emerged from their work in the week in which the Government will receive two major reports on jobs and regional Australia.

The Government's Discussion Paper - Restoring Full Employment - will be delivered on December 15. The following day the chairman of the Regional Task Force, Mr Kelty, will deliver his report and I expect many of the issues raised in that report will be relevant to the broader task of job creation.

The aim of the regional development task force, broadly speaking, has been to discover how best we can create jobs and widen opportunity for the people of regional Australia; how we can strengthen their economies and in so doing strengthen the national economy; how we can give the regions of Australia a stake in Australia's future.

The function at The Lodge will be a unique opportunity to discuss with a wide range of dedicated individuals the issue which will be the primary focus of Government attention and policy in the New Year.

**CANBERRA**  
**December 5, 1993**