



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

Mr Keating, who is on leave in Sydney this week, today issued the following statement on the death of Mr Justice Barry Maddern:

"I was saddened today to learn of the death of Justice Barry Maddern, the President of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission.

"Justice Maddern presided over what was in world terms a novel wages system operating under an accord between the Government and the trade union movement. The record shows that during this period inflation in Australia was broken, and a more profitable business sector led to higher investment and higher employment.

"He also presided over the most fundamental award restructuring in the nation's history, and contributed to innovative exercises in wage setting, such as the introduction of supplementary payments.

"Industrial disputes fell significantly while he was in office. There was no wage explosion exacerbated by decisions of industrial relations tribunals, which is in no small way due to him.

"Justice Maddern brought a sense of consistency to the decisions of the industrial relations tribunals of this country, and was very successful in developing the relationships among the various tribunals, and within the federal tribunal.

"Justice Maddern displayed a considerable degree of independence in his work, and will be remembered for the larger view and sense of consistency he bestowed on the country's industrial tribunals.

"I extend sincere condolences to his family."

SYDNEY
14 January, 1994