



PRIME MINISTER

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

**REPORT OF THE CENTENARY OF FEDERATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

I have received the report of the Centenary of Federation Advisory Committee, *2001: A Report from Australia*.

Premiers and Chief Ministers have also received the Committee's report, which was launched today by the Chairperson, Joan Kimer.

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed last year to establish a broadly based committee to advise it on goals and strategies for the centenary of federation in 2001.

COAG decided that the Committee should comprise representatives of each State and Territory, a Commonwealth appointed Chairperson and such further persons, appointed by the Commonwealth, as might be needed to ensure that the Committee as a whole was broadly representative of the community.

The report provides the basis for public debate, consideration by COAG and consideration by individual governments on how best to commemorate the centenary of federation.

Importantly, the report represents the results of a consultative process in which the Committee has visited all regions of Australia and held wide-ranging discussions with governments, with local authorities and community representatives.

It canvasses a range of proposals to help Australians understand the meaning of the centenary of federation, to celebrate our achievements as a nation since federation, to strengthen our national identity and celebrate our diversity as a people.

In addition, the report discusses a number of social, economic and environmental projects of national significance.

COAG and individual governments will now study the report carefully.

The commemoration of the centenary of federation, and the events leading up to it, provide an opportunity for all Australians to celebrate the achievements of the first hundred years of federation and to reflect on the challenges facing our nation as we approach the 21st century. I hope the entire community will participate whole-heartedly in it.

I would like to commend Joan Kirner and her colleagues on the Committee for their work and to thank them for the energy and commitment they have brought to their task.

**CANBERRA
10 August 1994**