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PRIME MINISTER

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

DEATH OF SENATOR OLIVE ZAKHAROV

I was deeply saddened to hear of the untimely death of Olive Zakharov. On behalf of the Government and the Australian Labor Party I extend to Olive's family and friends my deepest sympathies.

Throughout her life, Olive Zakharov showed a selfless and unwavering concern for and commitment to improving the welfare of Australian society. Her interests were many, and she will be remembered for the passion with which she strove for those things she believed in.

With her tragic death the Australian community and the Labor Party have lost one of their most tireless fighters for social justice.

Olive Zakharov was elected to the Senate in 1983 and represented the people of Victoria, especially the women of Victoria, with great skill and distinction. Her deep and abiding commitment to improving the legal and social position of women will be her legacy to Australia.

From her own personal experience, Olive Zakharov knew the suffering of women who were victims of domestic violence and abuse. It was her understanding of the consequences of domestic abuse that enabled her to persuade government to do more to attack the causes of the problem.

Olive Zakharov was also one of the earliest fighters in the struggle against HIV/AIDS. She was an original member of the First Parliamentary Liaison Group on HIV/AIDS. She actively supported the development of the First National HIV/AIDS Strategy and the work of the Victorian AIDS Council and other community groups involved in HIV/AIDS.

Her invaluable contribution to the parliament and people of Australia was also shown in her role as Temporary Chairman of Committee's and she wrote as Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training. She also served as a member of various other Senate Committees.

Olive will be sadly missed.

BONN

7 March 1995