



PRIME MINISTER

Embargo: 12.01 am 25 April 1995

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

ANZAC DAY 1995

Today, across the continent and in many places around the world, we are gathered to remember our countrymen and women who, because they believed in Australia and saw their duty to it, were prepared to lay down their lives in war.

This is the eightieth anniversary of the event from which Anzac Day derives, the landing at Gallipoli and the tragic and disastrous military campaign which followed it. Anzac Day is not a celebration of military victory, or a glorification of war. But it is the most important and profound day in Australia's national life.

It is the day we pay tribute to Australians who died so that we could live in peace and continue the task of building a good and prosperous country. It is the day when we reflect upon the meaning of their sacrifice. It is the day when we ask our children to reflect and learn what it means to love Australia and have faith in it.

We took from Gallipoli, and we have taken from every subsequent war in which Australians have fought and died, the message contained in that sacrifice: that it is good to be brave and to endure difficulty, and that we are bravest, most able to endure and most likely to succeed when we know we can rely on each other, when we stick together.

Anzac gave us this creed to live by - as Australians and as a nation. It has given us strength in war and in peace.

The spirit lives on in the ceremonies taking place today. It is present in the *Australia Remembers* celebrations to mark the end of World War II. It is there among the young Australians who are presently touring the battlefields on which their great grandfathers fought.

We hope and believe that it lives on in all our lives and that, by remembering those who died, the faith will be carried on into future generations of Australians.

CANBERRA
25 April 1995