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PRIME MINISTER

4/96

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON PJ KEATING MP

JANET HOLMES a COURT TO CHAIR CENTENARY OF FEDERATION COUNCIL

I am delighted to announce that Janet Holmes a Court has agreed to chair the Centenary of Federation Council.

The Council will coordinate centenary-related planning across the nation in the years leading up to and including the centenary of federation in 2001, and administer grants to community activities and projects commemorating and celebrating the first hundred years of the federation of the Australian States in 1901.

The Council is being established as a result of consideration by the Council of Australian Governments of the report of the Centenary of Federation Advisory Committee, chaired by Joan Kirner. It will comprise a nominee from each State and Territory and up to six Commonwealth nominees, including a local government representative. The membership will be announced shortly.

The Council will be pivotal in the lead up to the celebration and commemoration of a great democratic achievement.

Janet Holmes a Court is a very distinguished Australian. Her wide experience in cultural, business and community activities will be of great value to the Centenary of Federation Council as it begins its task. It will direct activities that include all Australians, are community focussed and, wherever possible, are of lasting significance into the next millennium.

(Janet Holmes a Court is Chair of Heytesbury Holdings and all companies in the Heytesbury Group including the John Holland Group and Heytesbury Pastoral Group; a member of the Reserve Bank Board; Chair of the Australian Children's Television Foundation; and Chair of the Black Swan Theatre Company.)

**CANBERRA
25 JANUARY 1996**