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PRIME MINISTER

CENTENARY OF FEDERATION

I am delighted to announce the appointment of eight outstanding Australians to the Centenary of Federation Council.

The Council will be chaired by Mr Dick Smith. The Executive Member will be Major-General Ken Taylor AO. The other Commonwealth members will be Mr Gary "Angry" Anderson AM, Professor Geoffrey Blainey, Mrs Evonne Cawley AO, Ms Phoebe Fraser, The Most Rev. Peter Hollingworth AO and Professor Trang Thomas.

They bring together a wide mix of expertise and I am grateful that they have agreed to take part in the important task of planning for the centenary.

The celebration of 100 years of nationhood is a key national event for all Australians. It is a unique opportunity to take stock of our record as a nation and to refresh our sense of purpose for the next century. We should recognise our nation's successes, including the resilience of our democratic institutions, the growth of stable and prosperous communities and the great achievements by Australians in all fields of endeavour.

The eight Commonwealth appointees will contribute in different ways to the development of a programme which reflects the aspirations of the Australian people and the diversity within our community.

It is important that the activities belong to the people, not to governments, and that our communities are involved as participants rather than just spectators. The Council's terms of reference will expressly require it to ensure broad community participation in its work.

As part of a co-ordinated approach to centenary planning, the Council will also have representatives from each state, the Northern Territory, the ACT and the Australian Local Government Association. It will develop a national programme of activities in consultation with planning bodies in the individual states and territories, reporting regularly to the Council of Australian Governments on progress.

I look forward to a co-operative effort involving all governments and the broader community.

Further information on the appointees and on the Centenary of Federation Council is attached.

CANBERRA
2 December 1996

**COMMONWEALTH APPOINTEES TO THE CENTENARY OF
FEDERATION COUNCIL**

- Chairman:** Mr Dick Smith, businessman, aviator and adventurer.
- Members:** Mr Gary (Angry) Anderson AM, singer and youth
commentator
- Professor Geoffrey Blainey, historian
- Mrs Evonne Cawley AO, member of the Australian Sports
Commission and first Australian Aboriginal to represent
Australia in world tennis,
- Ms Phoebe Fraser
- Archbishop Peter Hollingworth AO, Anglican Archbishop
of Brisbane
- Professor Trang Thomas, Vietnamese-born Chair of the
Victorian Ethnic Affairs Commission and Professor of
Psychology
- Executive member:** Major-General Ken Taylor AO, former Chief of Materiel
Army, now consultant and company director with wide
management experience.