

3



PRIME MINISTER

23 January 1997

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER
THE HON. JOHN HOWARD MP
DOORSTOP - YOUNG AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS
PARLIAMENT HOUSE - CANBERRA**

E&OE.....

JOURNALIST:

Well what do you think this says for Aboriginal people in Australia? Nova talked about being an inspiration for her people and for white Australians as well.

PRIME MINISTER:

I think she's an inspiration to all young Australians. She displayed qualities of tenacity and perseverance, I congratulate her. It was a very competitive field and the most impressive thing of all to me was the vast array of talent amongst young Australian achievers in so many walks of life, not just the sporting fields and the swimming pools but also in the laboratories, in small business, caring for the environment, people overcoming massive physical disabilities. It really was very cheering and an occasion full of great hope and I congratulate her immensely on a great award and I think it will be a great source of encouragement and pride not only to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people but also to all young Australians. Thank you.

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