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**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER
THE HON JOHN HOWARD MP
DOORSTOP INTERVIEW, FAULCONBRIDGE, NSW**

E&OE

PRIME MINISTER:

...(tape break)...strongly to the view I have for a long time, long before anybody had heard of Pauline Hanson or Pauline anybody. I've held the view for a long time that the paradigms of the '50s and '60s no longer apply and the world has changed and there is a link between high unemployment and high immigration particularly where the balance is too heavily skewed away from skilled migration. And what we have sensibly done is to reduce the overall level and to shift the balance. It's in the national interest, it will relieve some of the unemployment pressure and I just disagree completely with Mr Kennett - but you can have those friendly disagreements on matters of high policy.

But I think he is wrong, I believe I'm right and that's why the Federal Government has taken the decision and it's our responsibility to run immigration policy. We listen to what the States have got to say, we take the decision and on with the job.

JOURNALIST:

Can you give me an example of the sort of migrant community you're talking about where unemployment levels

PRIME MINISTER:

Oh look, I'm not going to start naming individual communities because some smart alec will then say I'm targeting a particular group. You know as well as I do that the unemployment rates are very high within particular communities and it's not their fault. In fact, maintaining the system we've maintained is probably doing them a great disservice. But we've looked at this thing. It's got nothing to do with race, it's got nothing to do with Hanson, it's got everything to do with a commonsense decision in the interests of the Australian people.

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