



ACTING PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **CATHY FREEMAN'S GOLD MEDAL**

Acting Prime Minister Tim Fischer MP has sent a message of congratulations to Australian sprint star, Cathy Freeman, on her gold medal performance in the 400 metre final at the World Athletics Championships in Athens (overnight AEST).

Mr Fischer said the win was particularly special given that Cathy Freeman has become the first Australian woman to win a gold medal at these Championships.

"Together with all Australians, the Prime Minister and I offer our best wishes to Cathy on her outstanding achievement".

"Cathy's win reflects her great determination and follows the best traditions of successful Australian sports women".

"Her win comes on the back of her silver medal performance at Atlanta and augers well for her chances of winning gold on home soil at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games".

5 August 1997

**NB.** Attached is a copy of Mr Fischer's message to Cathy Freeman.

Media enquiries please contact Brendan Egan Mobile. 018 691 178



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5 August 1997

Cathy Freeman  
Australian Team  
President's Hotel  
ATHENS GREECE

Dear Cathy

Congratulations on winning a gold medal in the 400m at the World Athletics Championships in Athens.

By becoming the first Australian woman to win a gold medal at these Championships you have created Australian sporting history. This wonderful victory is a fitting reward for your commitment to athletics. All Australians are proud of your efforts.

Coming on the back of your silver medal performance at Atlanta, this win also augurs well for your chances of winning gold in this event at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

My very best wishes for the future as you head towards this goal.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Fischer'.

TIM FISCHER MP

*My Well done, to*