



MEDIA RELEASE – 20 March 2015

## **Commemorate Malcolm Fraser at Old Parliament House**

Old Parliament House joins Australia in paying respects to former Prime Minister John Malcolm Fraser, who sadly passed away today.

Fraser spent his entire 28-year parliamentary career in Old Parliament House, now home to the Museum of Australian Democracy.

In 1956, at age 25 he entered federal politics and became the youngest member in the House. He went on to serve as Minister, Leader of the Opposition, and in 1975 became Prime Minister following the dismissal of the Whitlam Government.

Daryl Karp, Director of the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House said that he will be remembered for many significant achievements in the areas of human rights, Aboriginal affairs and the settlement of Indochinese refugees. He was a passionate opponent of apartheid and pursued human rights issues throughout his life.

“Fraser’s political skill combined with liberalism, civility, deep personal interest in policy, rejection of the politics of personal abuse and his love of debate, are qualities essential to a democratic political system”, says museum Chair and former professor of politics at Monash University, David Kemp, who was director of Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser’s office in 1981.

Fraser was awarded the Human Rights Medal in 2000 for his contribution to the advancement of human rights in Australia and internationally.

“Australia has Fraser to thank for the formation of such pivotal institutions as the Family Court, Federal Ombudsman, SBS, Aboriginal Development Commission and the Human Rights Commission,” said Daryl Karp.

A commemorative display has been created at Old Parliament House. Visitors are welcome to lay flowers on the front steps and sign our commemorative book.

More information on Fraser can be found by visiting the Australian Prime Ministers Centre at Old Parliament House—the national centre for research on Australia’s prime ministers—or by visiting the museum’s website [www.moadoph.gov.au](http://www.moadoph.gov.au).

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