



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 347
22 October 1974

**INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION INQUIRY INTO THE
PERFORMING ARTS IN AUSTRALIA**

The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, announced today that he had referred the question of assistance for the Performing Arts in Australia to the Industries Assistance Commission for inquiry and report. He said that he had been informed that the Commercial Theatre in Australia is experiencing difficulties at present and he considered it desirable that the question of assistance for the Performing Arts as a whole should be subject to a full and public inquiry by the Commission.

Mr Whitlam recalled that the Tariff Board (the predecessor of the Commission) inquired into the production of Motion Picture Films and Television Programs in Australia and its report had been well received by those involved in the industry. He felt that this new inquiry should similarly be welcomed by those involved in the Performing Arts.

Mr Whitlam said that for the purpose of the inquiry Performing Arts including live performances of ballet, dance, opera, music, drama, music hall, vaudeville, puppetry and the like. The Commission was however free to take evidence on, and if considered necessary, to make recommendations on any other matter it considered relevant to the inquiry.

CANBERRA A.C.T.