

MAJOR CHANGES IN MINISTERIAL AND DEPARTMENTAL
RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

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The Prime Minister gave the following details about major changes to be made to the administrative structure:

Administrative Services

The Department of Administrative Services will include, in addition to the functions previously held by that Department, many of the functions carried out by the Departments of the Special Minister of State and of the Media, which are to be abolished. In addition, it will be responsible for the property and survey functions of the Department of Urban and Regional Development and the Overseas Property Bureau from the Department of Foreign Affairs. The Department will work closely with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Attorney-General

This Department will now concentrate on more purely legal aspects of the Government's work. Regulatory activities are more effectively situated in the Department of Business and Consumer Affairs.

It is proposed that the Attorney-General should resume responsibility for the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation although the Director-General of Security would have responsibility to report directly to the Prime Minister.

Business and Consumer Affairs

This Department will assume responsibility for business practices, bankruptcy and insolvency, patents, trade marks and copyright from the Attorney-General's Department, the customs and excise functions from the Department of Police and Customs, which is to be abolished, and consumer affairs from the Department of Science and Consumer Affairs.

These functions will now be administered by a Department which is organised to have close contact with the community, consumers and business. The Department will have a strong practical orientation which will ensure that regulatory activities are carried out in the public interest. The Department will maintain close contact with other more specialised Departments.

It is proposed that the Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs would be responsible for the Industries Assistance Commission, the Temporary Assistance Authority, the Prices Justification Tribunal and the Trade Practices Commission.

Responsibility for the future Securities and Exchange legislation would be within this Ministry.

Employment and Industrial Relations and Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

These proposed new Departments will result from the abolition of the Department of Labor and Immigration, and the separation of the employment and industrial relations functions from the immigration functions. The creation of a Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs indicates the importance placed by the Government on the immigration programme and its concern that issues affecting migrants and their families in Australia should receive close and sympathetic attention in line with the Government's announced programme. The creation of the Department will be the specific fulfilment of an election promise given by the Coalition Parties.

Environment, Housing and Community Development.

The Departments of Urban and Regional Development, the Environment and Tourism and Recreation are to be abolished as separate entities.

The proposed new Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development would be responsible for the majority of functions of all three Departments together with the housing function of the Department of Housing and Construction. This will be a large and important Department working closely with the States. In its operation it will express the Government's view that matters of local concern will be undertaken with maximum consultation and concern for local conditions.

Responsibility for the National Capital Development Commission will transfer back to the Minister for the Capital Territory. The administration of the Housing Loans Insurance Corporation and the insurance provisions of the Defence Service Homes Act will be transferred from the Dept. of Repatriation and Compensation.

The Australian Government works functions from the Department of Housing and Construction would be the responsibility of the proposed new Department of Construction.

Health

It is proposed that responsibility for Medibank be transferred from the Department of Social Security to the Department of Health.

Industry and Commerce

This proposed re-naming of the Department of Manufacturing Industry takes account of the Government's intention to widen its functions to include tertiary industry including the tourist industry, an increased concern with small business and a transfer to it of responsibility for shipbuilding from the Department of Transport.

National Resources

This proposed re-naming of the Department of Minerals and Energy indicates the broadening of the Department's functions to include the water resources functions of the Department of Environment and the Department of Northern Australia.

Postal and Telecommunications

This proposed re-naming of the Postmaster-General's Department takes account of the increase in the functions of the Department to include all electronic media matters which are the responsibility of the Department of the Media. The Minister for Post and Telecommunications would be responsible for the A.B.C. and A.B.C.B.

Repatriation

It is proposed to transfer the compensation functions from the Department of Repatriation and Compensation to the Department of Social Security and to transfer the Housing Insurance functions to the Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development.

Treasury

It is proposed to transfer responsibility for the Australian Industry Development Corporation from the Minister for Manufacturing Industry and the Australian Bureau of Statistics from the Special Minister of State to the Treasurer.

Senior Appointments

As a consequence of the abolition, creation and renaming of Departments, there will be a number of appointments to the position of Permanent Head. The list of Permanent Heads of Departments will be as follows:

The Secretary to the
Department of Aboriginal
Affairs

MR. B.G. DEXTER,

The Secretary to the
Department of
Administrative Services

MR. P.J. LAWLER, O.B.E.

The Secretary to the Attorney-
General's Department

MR. C.W. HARDERS, O.B.E.

The Comptroller-General of
Customs (Permanent Head
of the Department of
Business and Consumer
Affairs)

MR. A.T. CARMODY, C.B.E.

The Secretary to the
Department of the Capital
Territory

MR. L.W.B. ENGLEADOW

The Secretary to the
Department of
Construction and Director-
General of Works

MR. A.S. REIHER

The Secretary to the
Department of Defence

SIR ARTHUR TANGE, C.B.E.

The Secretary to the
Department of Education

MR. K.N. JONES, C.B.E.

The Secretary to the
Department of Environment,
Housing and Community
Development

MR. R.B. LANSDOWN

The Secretary to the
Department of Foreign
Affairs

MR. A.P. RENOUF, O.B.E.

The Director-General of
Health

DR. G. HOWELLS.

The Secretary to the
Department of
Industry and Commerce

MR. N.S. CURRIE, O.B.E.

The Secretary to the
Department of National
Resources

MR. J. SCULLY

The Secretary to the
Department of the
Northern Territory

MR. R. S. LIVINGSTON

The Secretary to the
Department of
Overseas Trade

MR. D.H. MCKAY, O.B.E.

The Secretary to the Postal
and Telecommunications
Department

MR. F.J. GREEN

The Secretary to the
Department of Primary
Industry

MR. W. IVES

The Secretary to the
Department of the Prime
Minister and Cabinet

MR. J.L. MENADUE

The Secretary to the
Department of
Repatriation and
Chairman of the
Repatriation Commission

MR. R. KINGSLAND C.B.E., D.F.C.

The Secretary to the
Department of Science

SIR HUGH ENNOR, C.B.E.

The Director-General of
Social Services

MR. L.J. DANIELS, O.B.E.

The Secretary to the
Department of
Transport

MR. C.C. HALTON

The Secretary to the
Department of the
Treasury

SIR FREDERICK WHEELER, C.B.E.

Pending consideration of the filling of the Permanent Head positions in the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations, and Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Mr. K.C. McKenzie, a Deputy Secretary in the present Department of Labor and Immigration, will act in both positions.

Consideration is being given to the placement of other Permanent Heads of existing departments and these matters will be finalised as soon as possible. In accordance with the statement of 9 November 1975, their rights will not be compromised.