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## PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

AUGUST 17, 1976

### STAFF CEILINGS

The Government has decided on a further reduction in staff ceilings during 1976/77, for Government Departments and for authorities staffed under the Public Service Act, of about two per cent.

The decision follows reductions announced on 14 June in staff ceilings for Departments and authorities staffed under the Public Service Act of 1.6 per cent, and reductions in ceilings for other statutory authorities subject to ceilings of 0.9 per cent.

After allowance for the reductions announced in June, the total reduction in ceilings in all areas of Commonwealth employment over 1976/77 now being aimed at amounts to 2.5 per cent.

The further reductions in staff ceilings in the Budget context have been made possible by the Government's overall programme of restraint in expenditure.

Within the Public Service Act area the Public Service Board has been asked to control recruitment carefully, in order to achieve the reductions by natural wastage and redeployment.

Ministers have been asked to keep me informed of any difficulties encountered in achieving the new ceilings.

The Government wants to see its objectives achieved without personal hardship to its employees and without impairing the services that must be supplied to the Australian public.

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