

MEDIA RELEASEDEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER
AND CABINET - NEW ORGANISATION

The Executive Council has approved establishment changes in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The changes result from a general review and recommendations by the Public Service Board after detailed examination under normal Public Service Act procedures.

The new organisation has brought senior positions in the Department into line with those in other major departments such as Treasury and Defence.

The changes are being accommodated within the existing staff ceiling of the Department.

Copies of the new departmental organisation chart and further details about the re-organisation are available from the Prime Minister's Press Office.

14 February 1977

DPMC - RE-ORGANISATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Charts of the old and new organisations and a comparison table are attached.

Cost

The new Second Division structure approved represents in salaries an additional \$51,630 p.a. However, it is estimated that, but for the restructuring new functions would have resulted in additional Second Division salaries of \$151,680 p.a.

Purpose

The changes have been necessary because of a steady accretion of departmental responsibilities since the last major re-organisation took place midway through 1973. The new administrative arrangements settled last year by the Government have had a marked effect on the Department. Attention is drawn in particular to the Prime Minister's statement of 18 November 1976. This referred, among other things, to the need for the Department to expand its policy development and program evaluation roles.

Public Service Board Examination

The Board's review covered such matters as pattern of organisation, distribution of functions, workloads, lines of control, authority behind functions undertaken, work value etc. The Board's work value review had regard to its approach to position classification which reflects the 1975 National Wage Case guidelines.

There was substantial agreement between the Board and the Department. There were some issues upon which agreement was not reached.

Timetable

Preliminary work, which is significantly reflected in the re-organisation commenced in May 1976. Discussions commenced with the Public Service Board on 3 December 1976. The Board's decision was received on 4 February 1977. Executive Council approval was given on 11 February.

No decisions have yet been reached, on the question of staffing the new organisation, although obviously the staffing of the new structure is a matter for priority consideration.

The claims of existing staff for promotion must, of course, be a major consideration in staffing the new organisation. However, it is by no means an automatic process to promote existing staff. Promotion is on merit. It is expected that there will be an appropriate mixture of promotions from outside and within the Department and these will be gazetted in due course..

DPMC CENTRAL OFFICE - SECOND DIVISION ESTABLISHMENT

Salary Level	Current Positions	Approved Positions in Re-organisation	Difference	Net Increase in Payroll p.a.
Level 6 \$35,177 p.a.	-	3	+ 3	+ \$105,531
Level 4 \$30,610 p.a.	4	9	+ 5	+ \$153,050
Level 3 \$28,326 p.a.	9	2	- 7	- \$198,282
Level 2 \$26,042 p.a.	1	18	+ 17	+ \$442,714
Level 1 \$23,757 p.a.	23	4	- 19	- \$451,383
TOTAL	37 *	36	- 1	+ \$ 51,630

* It is estimated that new functions, but for the restructuring of the Second Division establishment would have resulted in the creation of two more Divisions staffed by something like six Second Division officers at an estimated additional annual cost of \$151,680. The figure of 37 does not include the 6 positions which would have been required.

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P R I M E M I N I S T E R

The Prime Minister today, in response to questions about the upward re-classification of senior positions in his Department, said that the re-organisation recognised the increasingly onerous burdens borne by senior officers and aligned the Department's structure with those of other major Commonwealth Departments such as the Treasury and Defence.

He also said that he did not see the re-organisation as setting a precedent as he was not aware of any other area of the Service which could demonstrate the changes in responsibilities of his own Department, but that this, of course, was a matter for the Public Service Board to determine under its statutory powers.

14 February 1977