



# PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

TUESDAY, 13 JANUARY, 1981

## RETIREMENT OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

I have today informed the Cabinet of Sir Garfield Barwick's intention to resign from the Office of Chief Justice of Australia on and from 11 February, 1981.

Sir Garfield has given great service to Australia in the highest judicial office. Appointed as Chief Justice on 1 May 1964, he has served longer than any of his predecessors. He has filled the Office with distinction, capping his earlier career at the Bar as a Minister of the Crown and in other areas of public life.

As Chief Justice, Sir Garfield has played a large part in the development of the law in Australia. He has guided and encouraged a number of developments enhancing the role and standing of the High Court. In his last year he presided over the Court's move to a permanent home in Canberra: the new High Court Building bears testimony to Sir Garfield's vision, energy and imagination.

I have conveyed to Sir Garfield the Government's appreciation of his service as Chief Justice and on behalf of the Australian people have wished him well in his intended retirement.

In accordance with legislation the Attorney-General will be consulting with State Attorneys-General in relation to the appointment of a new Chief Justice to succeed Sir Garfield.