



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

19 June 1985

The Minister assisting the Prime Minister for the Bicentenary, Mr Barry Cohen, and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Clyde Holding, today announced the appointment of Mr Eric Willmot, AM, to the Board of the Australian Bicentennial Authority.

Mr Willmot brings to the position wide ranging knowledge and experience, particularly in issues facing Aboriginal people.

"The appointment of a prominent member of the Aboriginal community", Mr Cohen and Mr Holding said, "is a tangible expression of the Commonwealth Government's hope that all Australians will share in the planning for 1988. This is in line with the Bicentennial theme 'Living Together'."

Mr Willmot has had a distinguished career, both as an academic and a public servant. He was Principal of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies from 1981 to 1984; he is currently Deputy Secretary of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. He will take up the Chair of Education at James Cook University, North Queensland, in January 1986.

He has received both international and Australian awards in the engineering field, and was Australian Inventor of the Year in 1981.

Last year Mr Willmot was made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to education and Aboriginal studies.