



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

14 AUGUST 1986

The Government has decided to abolish the Advisory Council for Inter-government Relations. Legislation to repeal the Act establishing ACIR will be introduced into Parliament during the Budget Sittings and the Council will be winding up its affairs in the near future.

ACIR was formed in 1976 with the object of improving co-operation between the federal, state and local levels of government through specialised research. It was recently reviewed by a Task Group of Commonwealth Officials established in September 1985. Following extensive consultations with the contributing parties to ACIR and submissions from the public, the Task Group reported in January 1986 recommending the abolition of ACIR. The Task Group found that ACIR had had limited success in improving inter-governmental relations, particularly Commonwealth/State relations.

The Government has consulted with the States, the Northern Territory and the Australian Council of Local Government Associations on the Review and its recommendations and there is broad support for its abolition.

The Government has under examination, in consultation with the States and the Northern Territory, other possible means of funding research in this area.