



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

12 JANUARY 1989

The Government proposes to recommend to the Governor-General the appointment of the Honourable J H Muirhead QC to be the next Administrator of the Northern Territory.

It is expected that Mr Muirhead, who was nominated by the Northern Territory Government, will take office in the middle of the year. He will succeed His Honour Commodore Eric Johnston AM OBE who has been Administrator of the Northern Territory since 1980.

Commissioner Muirhead will continue to head the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody until approximately the end of April.

I wish to take this opportunity to express the Government's great appreciation for the work that has been done by Mr Muirhead and to wish him well in his future appointment.

The interim report into Aboriginal deaths in custody prepared by Commissioner Muirhead is a significant contribution towards the resolution of the difficult issues into which the Royal Commission is inquiring. Relevant Commonwealth and State Ministers are making arrangements for early consideration and implementation of Mr Muirhead's recommendations.

I am writing to State Premiers and to the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory about appropriate successor arrangements to ensure that the Royal Commission is able to complete its important inquiries.