



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

17 APRIL 1990

I met today with the President of the Australian Medical Association, Dr Bryce Phillips; and Sir Dennis Paterson, Head of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Adelaide Children's Hospital; and other members of the AMA to discuss the next steps in the development of the National Road Trauma Advisory Council (NRTAC).

The Council's proposal, which has the strong support of my Government and has also now received expressions of support from the States and Territories, was originally put forward to me last year by Sir Dennis. It was the subject of detailed discussion and subsequently received AMA policy endorsement as the result of Dr Phillips' efforts.

The Council will have as its principal role the initiation of research and reports on means to reduce road injuries and death by improving vehicle and road safety standards, driver education and improved licensing. It will report direct to me. Its reports will be tabled in Parliament. My Government views it as an integral means of encouraging the States to adopt nationally consistent road laws, which we have put forward as part of our 'black spots' program.

Dr Phillips, Sir Dennis and I have agreed that I will write to the Premiers seeking their views on the detailed workings of the Council. I will be seeking a response from Premiers in sufficient time to enable a fully developed proposal to be put on the table at the next meeting of the Australian Transport Advisory Council (ATAC) Ministerial meeting in late May and a meeting of Health Ministers in June.

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