

FOR THE PRESS:

NEW MEMBERS OF AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES
COMMISSION.

Statement by the Acting Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. John McEwen,
M.P.

The Acting Prime Minister, the Right Honourable John McEwen, announced today the appointment of Professor SUNDERLAND, C.M.G., and Mr. KENNETH MYER, D.S.C., as part-time members of the Australian Universities Commission. Professor Sunderland is Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Melbourne, and Professor of Experimental Neurology. Mr. Myer is Joint Managing Director of Myer Emporium Ltd..

Mr. McEwen referred to the establishment in 1959 of the Australian Universities Commission to advise the Commonwealth Government on grants for Universities and to co-ordinate the balanced development of all Australian Universities. He said also that Commonwealth Parliament in its recent session had passed legislation to increase the number of part-time commissioners from four to six.

Mr. McEwen said that the Commission at present comprised the following members under the Chairmanship of SIR LESLIE MARTIN, C.B.E., F.R.S.:-

Professor N. S. BAYLISS, C.B.E.,
Professor of Physical Chemistry,
University of Western Australia.

Professor A. D. TRENDALL, C.M.G.,
Master of University House and Deputy Vice Chancellor,
Australian National University.

Dr. J. VERNON, C.B.E.,
General Manager, Colonial Sugar Refining
Company of Sydney.

SIR KENNETH WILLIS, K.B.E., M.C., E.D.,
Chairman, G. & R. Wills & Company Ltd., Adelaide.

Since its establishment three years ago the Commission has been faced with an increasingly complex task. At the present time the Commission is beginning triennial visits to all Australian Universities preparing for the 1964/66 triennium. At the same time the Commission's Committee on tertiary education is examining the whole pattern of future development of higher education in Australia.

Among the more complex problems recently examined by the Commission was a consideration of the teaching costs of medical hospitals. Mr. McEwen said that the needs of teaching hospitals would be considered by the Commission each triennium. Further, the establishment of new Medical Schools at the University of New South Wales and at Monash University poses special problems for the Commission. Therefore the Commonwealth Government has decided to appoint Professor Sunderland, and so to make his specialised knowledge and experience available to the Commission.

For its second new appointee the Government had decided to seek a person of eminence in the business and financial community. The original Commission had been chosen to provide not only a balance of academic and non-academic interests but as wide a

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variety of collective experience as could be obtained; this experiment had been more than justified. Mr. Kenneth Myer, in addition to his outstanding knowledge of the business and financial world, had shown himself to have a rare interest and capacity in the organisation of many community activities of a cultural nature and had likewise been chosen a member of the first Council of the National Library of Australia.

Mr. McEwen said that the Government appreciated the co-operation of the part-time members of the Commission who gladly gave up their time to help solve the onerous problem of higher education facing the nation. He expressed the Government's gratitude to Professor Sunderland and Mr. Myer for accepting the appointment.

CANBERRA.

20th June, 1962. P.M.