



PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE RT. HON.
WILLIAM McMAHON, CH. MP, IN THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, CANBERRA

ENQUIRY INTO POVERTY

29 AUGUST 1972

I am pleased to announce that Professor R.F. Henderson, Director of the Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research in the University of Melbourne, has undertaken to conduct the Enquiry into Poverty on behalf of the Government.

The terms of reference of the Enquiry are as follows :

To investigate -

- (a) The extent of poverty in Australia, including changes in its level;
- (b) The incidence of poverty in Australia upon special categories of persons or localities;
- (c) Factors which cause poverty in Australia;
- (d) The ways in which Commonwealth and State Governments, Local Government bodies and other bodies and persons currently assist the alleviation of poverty in Australia; the extent and effectiveness of existing measures and services; and differences between and within States in the efforts of State Government, Local Government bodies and other bodies and persons to alleviate aspects of poverty in Australia;
- (e) Any desirable changes that would contribute to the reduction of poverty in Australia; and
- (f) Any associated matters relevant to the general objects of the Enquiry.

The Government will ensure that Professor Henderson has the necessary supporting staff and that relevant Commonwealth Departments provide him with assistance where practicable.

Professor Henderson will himself determine the method of Enquiry to be adopted, and the time necessary for the work to be finalised.

Professor Henderson is well known for his work on poverty. Honourable Members will be aware that he and the Institute of which he is Director were responsible for "People in Poverty: A Melbourne Survey " which has been of great use to all those interested in the dimensions and quality of the problem of poverty in our land. The Government is, I think, fortunate to have obtained his services for this Enquiry.

It will be seen that the terms of reference for the Enquiry are very wide, having been drawn so as to enable the Enquiry to be as far-reaching as possible in its field, whilst concentrating on the solution of the immediate problem of reducing poverty in Australia.

I feel confident that the decisions which I have just announced will commend themselves to both sides of the House.
