



PRIME MINISTER

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FURLOUGH (LONG SERVICE LEAVE) FOR COMMONWEALTH OFFICERS
AND EMPLOYEES AND FOR MEMBERS OF THE DEFENCE FORCES

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. William
McMahon , CH, MP

The Public Service Board has reviewed furlough (long service leave) provisions for Commonwealth officers and employees, having regard to various representations, including those from staff associations.

The Government has approved the Board's recommendations for a number of legislative amendments. These include:

- . reduction of the basic qualifying period from 15 to 10 years
- . provision for furlough to be made a right
- . payment to the estate of a deceased officer or employee where there are no dependants
- . extension of furlough to part-time employees
- . recognition for furlough purposes of prior service with local governing bodies.

The Government has authorised the Public Service Board to advise relevant staff associations of the proposed amendments and have any necessary discussions on details, prior to the preparation of legislation.

The Government has also approved that any new provisions should have simultaneous application to all members of the Defence Forces.

The new provisions will come into effect when the relevant legislation - the Public Service Act, the Commonwealth Employees' Furlough Act and the Service Financial Regulations - can be amended.

CANBERRA,
26 October 1972