



**PRIME MINISTER**

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 3

6 December, 1972

EQUAL PAY CASE

The Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, this afternoon authorised a written application to the Industrial Registrar asking to have the recent hearing on equal pay before the Full Bench of the Arbitration Commission re-opened.

The application was made after detailed consultations with Labor's Minister for Industrial Relations, Mr. C.R. Cameron.

The Commonwealth hopes that its application for a re-opening will be heard in Melbourne on Friday.

Mr. Whitlam said that if the case were re-opened, the Commonwealth would give full support to the A.C.T.U. claim before the Commission on equal pay.

The McMahon Government had opposed the application seeking a phasing in of new equal pay provisions.

If successful, the new equal pay application would mean the extension of equal pay to women workers excluded by the Commission's 1969 judgement on the equal pay question.

Women in industries employing predominantly females were excluded from the application of that judgement.

The recent A.C.T.U. application, for which submissions concluded on 29 November, would remove all discrimination on the grounds of sex.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.