



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 19

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TERTIARY EDUCATION

The Australian Government has begun moves for greater decentralisation of tertiary education.

Part of this process will be rationalisation of tertiary education in Sydney to take into account population distribution.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, initiated the moves with letters to the chairmen of the Australian Universities Commission and of the Australian Commission on Advanced Education this week.

He has asked them to prepare a joint report on the location, nature and development of tertiary institutions throughout and near the Sydney and Melbourne metropolitan areas and in the Albury-Wodonga region.

He asked that the report be made as a matter of urgency by the end of March next year.

In his letters to the chairmen, Mr. Whitlam pointed out that the Australian Government intends to raise with the States next year the question of the Commonwealth assuming financial responsibility for tertiary education.

He also said that the Government would not necessarily preclude consideration being given to the establishment of one or more location of an institution which did not conform with the pattern of existing colleges and universities.

This applied to the extent that the institution offered courses which perhaps spanned and even went beyond the interests of both present universities and colleges of advanced education.

As Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party, Mr. Whitlam has previously said that tertiary institutions should be established at Penrith and Campbelltown, near Sydney.

In his election policy speech, he said that at Albury-Wodonga the Commonwealth had the constitutional jurisdiction and the administrative options to establish another inland city the size of Canberra.