

PRESS RELEASE

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The Prime Minister will officially open the recently completed Australian Government Centre in Ann Street, Brisbane, adjoining Anzac Square, on 23 March at 3.30 p.m.

Mr. Fred Daly, the Minister for Services and Property and Leader of the House, announcing this today, said that invitations to the opening had been sent to the Federal Minister for Works, Senator J. Cavanagh, the Premier of Queensland, the Hon. J. Bjelke-Petersen, the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Mr. Clem Jones, Federal members of Parliament and State M.P. s, senior public servants, trade union officials and other citizens.

The \$9.4 million, 20 - level steel and concrete complex provides 200,000 square feet of office space. The title Australian Government Centre replaces the former name, Commonwealth Centre, and has been adopted to establish the building's national identity.

It accommodates 11 Australian Government Departments, employing 1,600 public servants, as well as providing offices for Ministers, Members and Senators of the Australian Parliament.

The complex includes five levels of underground parking for 120 cars, a theatrette for special presentations and staff training programmes, and a cafeteria to seat 290 employees.

The Meteorological Bureau occupies the top floor to enable meteorological instruments to be located on the roof of the building.

Departments dealing most directly with the public - Social Security, Housing and Repatriation - have reception areas on the Ann Street level. Thus 80 per cent of the callers at the building are normally able to conduct their business conveniently at this level.

The opening ceremony will take place at the plaza entrance, off Creek Street.

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