



PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No. 69

3 April 1973

FURLOUGH - LONG SERVICE LEAVE

Cabinet today decided that the basic qualification period for furlough in Australian Government employment will be reduced from 15 to 10 years.

Pro rata furlough entitlement shall be payable to officers and employees on cessation after 5 years of service, providing that in cases where employment ceased through death, ill health, retrenchment or retirement on account of age, pro rata furlough entitlements shall be payable after one year of service.

The accrual rate for furlough shall be three months for the first 10 years' service and half-a-month for each year thereafter.

For the purpose of assessing the increased rates of accrual, 'service' will be calculated retrospectively to the date of commencing employment.

Those now employed who have taken furlough will be granted their total furlough entitlement under the new provisions, less the period of furlough granted.

Furlough will be available to all employees - including part-time employees and full-time employees employed for only part of each year.

Officers and employees who had or have the necessary service with the Commonwealth on or after 1 January 1973 shall be entitled to the new furlough entitlements regardless of whether they left its service before the passage of the amending legislation.

Commonwealth staff who have transferred from Local Government bodies will enjoy the same furlough rights as are now enjoyed by staff who transferred from State Government into the Commonwealth Public Service.

Legislation will be introduced as soon as possible to extend the new provisions to all Australian Government employees.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

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