



PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No. 79

1 May 1973

PUBLIC SERVICE BONDING

The Prime Minister announced today the discontinuance of bonding of staff in the Commonwealth Service.

Opinion throughout the community is increasingly opposed to the bonding of trainees. The Karmel Committee of Enquiry into Education in South Australia in 1970 recorded its opposition to the whole principle of bonding and thought it should be abolished as soon as circumstances permitted. The Bell Committee of Inquiry into Teacher Education in N.S.W. in 1971 expressed similar views. The Senate Standing Committee on Education, Science and the Arts in 1972 concluded that bonding was so financially and socially wasteful that it should be scrapped.

The Public Service Board considers that in current circumstances in the Commonwealth Service bonding is no longer appropriate.

Existing bond commitments will not be enforced. Money paid by people in respect of contracts they have previously breached will not be refunded.

Other aspects of cadetships and other trainee schemes are being reviewed in the light of the current circumstances and where appropriate these will be discussed by the Public Service Board with staff associations.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.