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PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 94

25 May 1973

ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT

The Australian Government will take steps to recruit Aborigines into the Australian Public Service.

A team of senior officers from the Public Service Board and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs will leave on Sunday for several weeks of field investigations on employment opportunities for Aborigines in the Public Service.

The Board has already established an inter-divisional committee to co-ordinate activities on the recruitment of Aborigines. It is also holding discussions with the Departments of Labour and Aboriginal Affairs on details of training and placement of Aborigines in the Public Service. A recruitment booklet for distribution among Aborigines has been prepared by the Board and regular surveys of the numbers of Aborigines in the Public Service will be carried out.

The two-man team which will leave to study recruitment will comprise an officer of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and an officer of the Public Service Board's Organisation Division. It will conduct joint inspections of jobs performed by Aborigines on Aboriginal reserve communities near Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin to determine their stability for incorporation into the Public Service.

The inspection will be followed by detailed discussions with senior officers from Public Service departments located in Darwin.

In their visits to Aboriginal reserve communities near Katherine and Darwin, the team will be accompanied by another officer of the Public Service Board who will be consulting with Aboriginal community spokesmen and departmental officers on difficulties faced by Aborigines in seeking Public Service employment.

Consultations will also be held with departmental officers in Darwin, Brisbane and Sydney, on the placement and training of Aborigines and on proposals for regular surveys of the numbers of Aborigines employed in the Public Service.

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