



PRIME MINISTER

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FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS IN THE AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SERVICE

In line with the Australian Government policy that employees should have the right to work in conditions conducive to the development of full human dignity, the Public Service Board has issued an information paper to all departments and staff associations drawing attention to various experiments which are being conducted with new patterns in working times. The aim of introducing flexible working hours is to give staff the maximum possible freedom to determine their own pattern of working.

Trials of different flexible hours systems are currently being conducted in areas of the Central Office of the Department of Labour in Melbourne, the Regional Office of the Department of Supply in Melbourne and in the N.C.D.C.'s office in Canberra. The Board, departments and staff associations will be monitoring these and future trials to determine the advantages and disadvantages of alternative working arrangements before deciding whether new working arrangements should be introduced on a more permanent basis in appropriate areas.

The introduction of flexible working hours in the Australian Public Service will have both social and efficiency advantages and is a further step in the formulation of an employment policy which would help people to reconcile domestic and family responsibilities with a career.

CANBERRA. A.C.T..