



PRIME MINISTER

THE FIRST YEAR

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER
THE HON. E.G. WHITLAM, Q.C., M.P.,
ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LABOR GOVERNMENT'S
FIRST YEAR OF OFFICE

(With summaries and tabulations of
legislation, reports, inquiries
and decisions.)

2 DECEMBER 1973

THE FIRST YEAR

The first Australian Labor Government in 23 years has been in office for just one year.

I submit this document to mark that anniversary and to bring to the attention of the Australian people the record of that year, to give you the evidence of promises fulfilled and reforms begun.

I include also the evidence of unwarranted obstruction by the non-Labor forces in the Senate; their obstruction of the Government's clear mandate from the people to get things done.

The year has been one of great industry and great purpose. What has already been done stands in striking contrast to the record of sloth and incompetence which characterised the decaying years of the outgoing Government.

The program I presented to the Australian people on 13 November 1972 had three great aims. I restate them. They are:-

- to promote equality
- to involve the people of Australia in the decision-making processes of our land
- to liberate the talents and uplift the horizons of the Australian people.

In pursuit of those aims we have introduced a record number of bills into the Parliament. We have swept away anachronistic and unnecessary relics of the past - selective national service by ballot and the death penalty in Australian territories.

We have withdrawn the last remnants of our unhappy "presence" in Vietnam.

LEGISLATION

Since the 28th Parliament assembled on 27 February this year a record total of 244 bills has been introduced, with the session still unfinished.

Never before in our history has such a wide-ranging, reforming program come before the Parliament. The nearest to it was the total of 169 bills in the year 1968, of which 157 were passed.

Of the 244 bills so far introduced - and there are more to come before the year is out - 163 have already been passed, even though the Government lacks a majority in the Senate.

There are still 68 bills before the Parliament as the session draws to a close and possibly about 10 more to be introduced.

Thirteen bills have already been deferred or stand rejected in the Senate. They include major bills for reform of the electoral system.

A legislative program of the magnitude I have described imposes an extremely heavy work-load on the Parliament and the administration.

I pay tribute to the Public Service and to the many distinguished Australians outside government who have given so much of their time, energy and skills to help bring our programs forward.

(Details of bills passed, those before the Parliament and those rejected, deferred or amended by the Senate, are attached in Appendix B.)

We have introduced new policies for our cities and country regions and in social welfare and education.

We have introduced new policies in our foreign relations, particularly in our own region of Asia and the Pacific.

We have brought new vigour and vitality to the arts.

We have tackled the greatest immediate problem of all - domestic inflation - with resolution.

We have moved swiftly to protect Australia's natural resources and reverse the trend to foreign ownership and control of our industries.

By using special task forces of experts, consultants, commissions and committees of inquiry, as well as the customary interdepartmental committees of the Public Service, we are overhauling every field of government responsibility at home and abroad.

In my recent Robert Garran oration I explained how the Government had combined these elements with the Public Service and added a "think tank" to advise on long-term priorities.

A total of 90 Commissions of inquiry, committees and task forces have been at work during the year reporting to the Government.

It has been our practice - and this will continue - to make public, through the Parliament and in other ways, the reports and recommendations of these committees and inquiries.

This year 29 reports on inquiries instituted by the Government have been tabled in Parliament and 19 statements issued on meetings and discussions with State Governments.

This commitment to open government was a pledge we made and a pledge we shall keep.

THE ECONOMY

In its first year the Government's over-riding consideration has been to contain and reduce - so far as a national government can - the inflationary pressures in the economy.

With the limited powers we already possess we have:-

- . Established a Prices Justification Tribunal and a Joint Parliamentary Committee on Prices.
- . Revalued the Australian dollar twice and reduced tariffs by 25% "across the board" to make imports cheaper and ease domestic demand pressures.
- . Used other fiscal and monetary measures to restrain demand by mopping up liquidity and checking capital inflow. These include some increases in indirect taxation, an increase in the Statutory Reserve Deposit Ratio and active intervention by monetary authorities in the bond market.
- . Introduced a Trade Practices Bill to eliminate price rings and cartels and unwarranted pricing arrangements.
- . Called a representative Industrial Peace Conference to consider ways of securing greater industrial peace and stability.
- . Established an Interim Commission for Consumer Standards to ensure that people buying goods get value for their money.
- . Introduced certain price controls in the A.C.T. as an example to the States and to protect the community.

In addition, we are seeking national powers over prices and incomes at the referendum on 8 December.

This follows the refusal of some States to refer these powers freely to the Australian Government so that a national attack on inflation can be made. Valuable time has been lost through no fault of ours.

Our referendum proposals have been opposed by the Opposition, whose careless management of the economy during its last term in office created most of the inflationary problems we are tackling today.

RESOURCES

Just over a year ago I said in my policy speech:

"We are determined that the Australian people shall be restored to their rightful place in their own country - as participants and partners in government or the owners and keepers of the national estate and the nation's resources.....
we will put Australians back into the business of running and owning Australia."

This pledge is well on the way to fulfilment. The pace we are making is limited only by the road-blocks the Opposition parties are erecting in the Senate.

We are almost the last country in the world to take steps to check the uncontrolled growth of foreign ownership of industries and our natural resources.

Time was running out when the responsibility was passed to us. We wasted no time. Here are some of the things we have done:

- . Three months after the election we decided that all minerals would be subject to export controls to ensure the orderly development of the mineral industries.

- . We have begun to increase Australian control over our natural resources and have set, as an objective, full Australian ownership of uranium.

We also regard this as a desirable objective in development projects involving natural gas, oil and coal.

- . We have closely scrutinised take-over activity by foreign interests among Australian companies. Nearly 500 proposed take-overs have been brought to notice.

We have refused 19 takeovers which we considered, on balance, to be not in the national interest; 49 (mainly mining) have been deferred; 51 are under consideration and 29 have lapsed. There have been 322 cases allowed to proceed.

- . We have set up a Pipeline Authority which will establish a nationwide pipeline system to distribute petroleum, natural gas and other hydrocarbons from the wells to the main centres of population

- . We have brought legislation before the Parliament to strengthen the Australian Industry Development Corporation. This will allow greater Australian participation in major enterprises (provided the Opposition does not block it in the Senate).

- . We initiated a review of foreign investment in real estate. Until this review is complete overseas interests are being discouraged from significant purchases for the time being, and the Reserve Bank will not normally grant foreign exchange approval for such purposes.

- . A Committee of Inquiry into the National Estate is in progress to give advice on areas and historic places which should be protected and preserved as part of the Australian heritage.

- . We have introduced a bill to establish an Industries Assistance Commission based on a report by Sir John Crawford. This bill will give industries - primary and secondary - the opportunity to present publicly a case for Government assistance and to obtain assistance when circumstances warrant it.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

I have said that one of our great aims was "to liberate the talents and uplift the horizons of the Australian people."

This is possible only in a climate of personal and national security and in a congenial environment.

As my colleague the Treasurer said when he brought down the August Budget, "Australia was once a leader in the provision of welfare services. It is so no longer, but this Government intends to change that state of affairs."

We have already done so, in a year.

New benefits, flowing from the Budget, are already relieving the pressures on our less fortunate citizens and other benefits, including the national health insurance scheme which is central to our program, are well advanced.

Pensions have been increased all round and the first step has been taken in the abolition of the means test over a period of three years for residentially-qualified people of 65 years and over.

Our policy objective is to raise the pension rate twice a year until it reaches 25% of average weekly earnings.

Welfare services of all kinds - for the young, the old, the handicapped and the neglected - have been extended.

The universal national health insurance scheme, which will give every Australian access to medical and hospital care either free or at minimal cost, has been developed and refined after full public debate.

It will give us one of the most advanced and comprehensive public health schemes in the western world when it is joined with the new programmes flowing from the work of the Sax Commission.

It will be a far better - and cheaper scheme than those we have now.

EDUCATION

In our first Budget we committed \$843 million to education for 1973/74 - almost double that given by our predecessors the year before.

This great thrust will be applied through existing authorities and a new permanent Australian Schools Commission for which legislation is before the Parliament. In the meantime it is being directed by an Interim Committee, set up only ten days after the election, which will continue to do the job if the Opposition delays the creation of the Commission itself.

This program is already lifting Australian education from the doldrums. It is giving new opportunities to young Australians.

In a month from now the Australian Government will take over full financial responsibility for tertiary education. Fees will be abolished and increased living allowances will be paid to students who need them. Teaching scholarships have been trebled.

Aid will be available to all schools, without distinction, on a "needs" basis.

This - and much else - was part of this year's Budget commitment to education.

(Details of new social welfare benefits and education provisions are in Appendix E.)

CITIES

We came to office determined to make our cities decent places to live in and to develop new regions for a growing population.

We have set up the new departments of Urban and Regional Development and Environment and Conservation. We have a Cities Commission.

All have been active.

In October we signed an agreement between the Australian, New South Wales and Victorian Governments for the development of Albury-Wodonga as the first of our planned regional centres.

HUMAN RIGHTS

This Government is committed to taking all possible legislative and administrative action to prevent discrimination on the grounds of colour, race, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

We have made this commitment clear in regard to our Aboriginal citizens. We have eliminated all racial implications from our immigration policies.

We have made it clear to other Governments by our early decision - six days after the election - to exclude racially-selected sporting teams from Australia.

We are pledged to appoint an ombudsman. We have already appointed an ombudsman for the armed services.

In a wider context, we have enshrined these principles in legislation. Two complementary bills - one on Human Rights and the other on Racial Discrimination - are now before the Parliament.

WOMEN

The Australian Government is able, and therefore bound, to remove or reduce many aspects of legal, social, educational, and economic discrimination against women. We are trying to do so.

In June this year the Government ratified a basic ILO Convention on discrimination in employment and occupation which will be of benefit to women. It is also committed to ratify the ILO Convention on equal pay for women.

The Human Rights Bill which has been introduced is a further step in the direction of reducing discrimination.

We have offered to the States **financial** assistance totalling \$136 million for the establishment of 12 growth centres, for land acquisitions in urban areas and for aid in upgrading urban public transport systems and reducing the sewerage back-log in major urban areas.

We signed a new Housing Agreement with the States which will, in particular, provide for increased advances over the next five years at low rates of interest for the provision of welfare housing.

ABORIGINES

For too long, to the nation's shame, the Australian Aborigines were denied their basic rights. This we are correcting with the utmost despatch.

We established a separate Ministry to deal with all matters affecting Aborigines.

A National Aboriginal Consultative Committee, elected by the Aborigines themselves, will act as an advisory body for the Government.

We have almost doubled, to \$117 million, the Budget provision for Aboriginal advancement in 1973/74.

We have accepted the recommendations of the first report of the Aboriginal Land Rights Commission and made new provisions for education, health, housing and employment opportunities for Aborigines.

The Government has also decided to assume direct responsibility for Aboriginal affairs in all States and is negotiating with the States to this end.

The Government has made a review of employment conditions in the Australian Public Service. As a result all positions in the Service are to be open equally to men and women applicants. Advertisements of vacancies and the placement of staff are to be changed to avoid the possibility of selection on the basis of sex.

The age limits for permanent appointments have been lifted from all but a very few designations.

Further funds were allocated in the Budget for training and retraining schemes for women.

The possibility of creating more permanent part-time employment is being studied and various trial schemes of flexible working hours are being introduced.

Maternity leave provisions for Government employees have been extended to 12 weeks on full pay and a further 40 weeks unpaid without risk to continuity of service or status.

A completely new benefit, the Supporting Mothers's Benefit, has been introduced. This benefit is payable to unmarried mothers including deserted de facto wives and de facto wives of prisoners, to married women not living with their husbands, and to wives who have been separated for other reasons, provided they have the care of their children. Any woman receiving this support is eligible to participate in the training scheme for widow pensioners.

One of the first decisions of the Government was to remove the sales tax on oral contraceptives and place them on the pharmaceutical benefits list. Prompt action has also been taken in the allocation of grants for family planning.

Extensive grants have been made available both for research into child care and for the construction and operation of child care centres.

The Pre-Schools Commission is shortly to recommend measures which the Government should adopt to ensure that child care and pre-school centres be provided for below school age children.

CULTURE AND LEISURE

In culture and leisure, which are inseparable from a literate and healthy society, we have opened up new horizons for Australians.

Our financial aid to the Arts has been doubled in a year to \$14 million. For the first time artists and writers have a new security of income and a new incentive to exercise their creative talents.

We have enlarged and reformed the Australian Council for the Arts, which will be established as a statutory body, with its autonomous boards, to be known as the Australia Council.

We have given a new direction to tourism, with an emphasis on youth and an encouragement to "Go See Australia".

We are giving direct help to the States for the preservation of historic sites and settlements which will attract tourists.

We have committed funds to the development of recreational and sporting activities.

No national Government before has given such leadership in these matters so vital to the intellectual life and leisure of the nation.

FOREIGN POLICY AND DEFENCE

I believe that in a year we have demonstrated a new independence in our foreign relations, strengthened old friendships and forged new ones.

We have recognised China and made significant new trading arrangements for wheat and sugar.

We have opened up new areas of co-operation with Japan and initiated NARA - a treaty of friendship which our predecessors refused to negotiate.

We have told our Asian neighbours of our aspirations for a regional association to enable us to share with all nations in South-East Asia, including China, hopes and ambitions for progress and prosperity.

We have re-affirmed our friendship with our nearest neighbour, Indonesia.

We have re-affirmed our traditional friendship with Britain and the United States, unimpaired by the independence of our policy and the steps we have taken in our region.

We have taken action against French nuclear testing in the Pacific before the International Court at the Hague.

We have, in full understanding, and by mutual consent, changed the Royal Style and Titles so that Her Majesty the Queen, when she is here, is Queen of Australia.

In defence, the Australian Government has shaped its policy to the realities of the day, the honouring of its pledges and the provision of a better deal for those in the Armed Forces, where all are now volunteers.

We have brought in a new deal for servicemen in pay, conditions and retirement benefits, a Defence Forces Ombudsman was appointed last week to deal with individual grievances.

We have announced - in accordance with our election undertaking - the withdrawal of our forces from Singapore, including all combat elements in the Anzuk Brigade. These will return to Australia early next year.

Arrangements have also been made for the Minister for Defence to have discussions with the United States Government on the future management and control of U.S. bases and joint facilities in Australia.

We have acted to streamline the workings of defence administration by merging the defence group of service departments into a single Defence department.

I am confident our armed forces are now being more efficiently and effectively organised and will continue to serve this country well.

In foreign policy and on defence we have honoured, and will continue to honour all our treaties, arrangements and obligations.

CONCLUSION

This first year is complete. We, as a Government, have done much. We have kept to our pledges and our program.

I believe what has been done in a year has not been matched before.

But there is much yet to be done. We will carry on with the same vigour and the same confidence.

We believe the Australian public will judge us fairly on a record second to none and on an election mandate on its way to fulfilment.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.

REPORTS TABLED IN PARLIAMENT ON
INQUIRIES INSTITUTED BY THE
PRESENT GOVERNMENT

		<u>Tabled By</u>
28 February	: Report by Mr Justice Moore on the Inquiry into Steel Price Increases proposed by B.H.P. and A.I.S.	Mr Whitlam
15 March	: Bilingual Education in Schools in Aboriginal Communities in the Northern Territory. (Requested by Minister for Education on 22.1.73)	Mr Beazley
3 April	: Report on Employment Problems in the Port of Portland	Mr Cameron
11 April	: Components of the growth of Australia's Major Urban Centres	Mr Uren
2 May	: Report of the Health Insurance Planning Committee	Mr Hayden
2 May	: Report from the Academy of Science on the Biological Effects of Nuclear Explosion Fall-out. (Request from Prime Minister 12.2.73)	Mr Whitlam
17 May	: Biological Effects of Nuclear Explosion Fall-out. (Meeting between Australian/French scientists, Canberra 7-9.5.73)	Mr Whitlam
24 May	: Interim Report of the Australian Council for the Arts. (Request from Prime Minister 23.1.73)	Mr Whitlam
25 May	: The Role, Scope and Development of Recreation in Australia - prepared by Professor John Bloomfield	Mr Stewart
30 May	: Interim Report of the Australian Schools Commission	Mr Beazley
30 May	: Report from the National Hospitals and Health Services Commission Interim Committee	Dr Everingham
31 May	: A.C.T. Education Authority - Assessment Panel on	Mr Beazley
21 August	: Review of Previous Government's Programs	Mr Crean
21 August	: Possible Ways of Increasing Imports	Mr Crean
22 August	: Aboriginal Land Rights Commission	Mr Bryant

22 August	: Summary of discussions at meeting of Ministers responsible for recreation held on 7 June 1973	Mr Stewart
29 August	: Transcript of conference of Ministers responsible for immigration held at Brisbane on 11 May 1973	Mr Grassby
11 October	: Transcript of minutes of meeting of Australian Water Resources Council held on 27 July 1973	Dr Cass
16 October	: Record of decisions of Tourist Ministers Council held on 9 and 10 July 1973	Mr Stewart
22 October	: Communique relating to Ministerial Council Meeting on Land Commissions held on 22 October	Mr Uren
24 October	: Report of conference of Australian Education Council held on 14 and 15 June 1973	Mr Beazley
24 October	: Summary of resolutions and recommendations of Australian Forestry Council meeting held on 8 June 1973	Dr Patterson
20 November	: Statement regarding meeting of Australian Government and State Government Ministers concerning export of kangaroo products held on 9 March 1973	Dr Cass

Immigration Advisory Council - Committee on Community Relations

Immigration Task Forces (All States) (Reports tabled 29.8.73,
10.10.73, 15.11.73)

Institutions of Tertiary Education in Sydney, Melbourne, Albury/
Wodonga - Location, Nature and Development of (Report tabled
3.5.73)

Lake Pedder Inquiry (Interim Report tabled 13.9.73)

National Commission on Social Welfare (Report tabled 30.8.73)

National Estate - Committee of Inquiry

National Hospitals and Health Services Commission - Interim
Committee (Report tabled 30.5.73)

National Population Inquiry (as extended on 4 March 1973)

National Rehabilitation and Compensation Scheme - Committee of
Inquiry

National Superannuation Committee of Inquiry

Nursing Homes Fees Review - Committees of Inquiry (All States)

Open University Inquiry

Pilbara Study

Poverty Inquiry

Protection Commission - Inquiry re formation of (Now named
Industries Assistance Commission (Crawford Report)) (Report
tabled 27.9.73)

Recreation in Australia - the Role, Scope and Development of
(Report tabled 25.5.73)

Review of Previous Government's Programs (Report tabled 21.8.73)

River Murray Commission - Working Party

Social Security/Welfare - Advisory Council on

Steel Prices - Inquiry into proposed increases (Report tabled
28.2.73)

Superannuation pensions - Commonwealth Inquiry into adjustments
after retirement (extended terms of reference) (Report tabled
10.4.73)

Technical and Further Education - Australian Committee

Urban Centre - Components of the growth of (Report tabled 11.4.73)

Urban Land Tenure - Commission of Inquiry into

COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY, COMMITTEES,
TASK FORCES REPORTING TO THE
GOVERNMENT

A. THOSE INSTITUTED BEFORE 31 MAY 1973

- Aboriginal Land Rights Commission (First report tabled 22.8.73)
- Aboriginal Languages in Schools - Advisory Group on Teaching
(Report tabled 15.4.73)
- Adelaide Airport Advisory Committee
- A.C.T. Education Authority - Assessment Panel on (Report tabled
31.5.73)
- A.C.T. and New South Wales - Impact of growth of Canberra
- Aircraft Industry Working Group
- Australian Council for the Arts (Report tabled 8.11.73)
- Australian Post Office Commission of Inquiry
- Australian Pre-schools Committee
- Australian Schools Commission - Interim Committee (Report tabled
30.5.73)
- Biological Effects of Nuclear Explosion Fall-out - Academy of
Science (Report tabled 2.5.73)
- Biological Effects of Nuclear Explosion Fall-out - Meeting between
Australian and French Scientists (Report tabled 17.5.73)
- Citizen Military Forces - Committee of Inquiry
- Child Care Standards Committee
- Child Care Research Advisory Committee
- Computerisation of Criminal Data Committee
- Computerisation of Legal Data Committee
- Education for Community Recreation Workers
- Employment Problems in the Port of Portland (Report tabled 3.4.73)
- Employment Statistics - Committee of Inquiry
- Health Insurance Planning Committee (Report tabled 2.5.73)
- Homeless Men and Women - Working Party on

B. THOSE INSTITUTED AFTER 31 MAY 1973

A.C.T. Health Commission
Australian Ionising Radiation Advisory Council
Burdekin Project Committee
Commission of Inquiry into the Maritime Industry
Committee on Development of Outdoor Recreation
Committee of Inquiry into Government Procurement Policy
Committee of Inquiry into the Protection of Privacy
Committee of Inquiry into workloads in Defence and Research Establishments
Committee of Reference for Defence Forces Pay
Committee on National Uniform Safety Code for Australian Government Employment
Committee on Possible ways of increasing imports (Report tabled 21.8.73)
Consultation with Young People
Consumer Affairs Council (Related to A.C.T.)
Emergency Housing Committee
Evaluation Study of Operation and Effectiveness of the Aboriginal Secondary Grants Scheme
Financial Needs for training teachers for special education in tertiary institutions
Financial support for approved private teachers college
Government Industry Panel on Cherries
Housing Standards Committee
Inquiry into Certain aspects of Stevedoring Industry
Inquiry into Aboriginal/Police Relations
Inquiry into Employment in the Building Industry
Inquiry into Technical Education in the A.C.T.
Inquiry into the Implications of Establishing Frequency Modulation Radio Broadcasting in Australia
Inquiry into the prices of certain commodities and services in the A.C.T. and Northern Territory
Interim Commission on Consumer Standards
Interim Committee on the Production of Pharmaceutical Products
Interim Executive of the Australian Health Insurance Commission
Interim Primary Schools Libraries Committee

Legal Aid Review Committee

Medical Fees Tribunal

Molongo Parkway Inquiry

National Committee on Discrimination in Employment and
Occupations

Possible development in Australian universities of studies in
linguistics, including Aboriginal linguistics

Possible steps to encourage studies in Australian universities
of the languages and cultures of people who represent a
significant component of Australia's migrant intake

Review Panel on Land Allocations to Builders

Royal Commission into Petroleum and Petroleum Products

Second Interim Committee for the Schools Commission

Task Force on Land Tenures

The Interim Board for the Proposed Belconnen Mall Authority

West Australian Airport Advisory Committee

Working Party on Nursing Homes Fees

Working Party on the Environmental Implications of the Woodchip
Industry and the Softwood Forestry Program

Workshop on Aboriginal Health Services and Aboriginal Health
Workers

STATEMENTS, ETC., ARISING FROM MEETING
BETWEEN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT & STATE
GOVERNMENT MINISTERS

Tabled by

1 March	: Communique of meetings between Prime Minister and Premiers of New South Wales and Victoria at Albury-Wodonga on 25 January 1973	Prime Minister
6 March	: Statement made on 2 March 1973 following meeting between Prime Minister and Premiers of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia concerning River Murray and River Murray Commission	Prime Minister
13 March	: Communique and Points of Agreement of the Ministerial Council Meeting concerning Albury-Wodonga (Aspects of Development and Decentralisation)	Mr Uren
15 March	: Statement regarding meeting on 15 February 1973 between Minister for Housing and Victorian counterpart on proposed Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement	Mr Johnson
27 March	: Statements made with regard to the Australian Transport Advisory Council meeting in Hobart on 16 February 1973	Mr Jones
3 April	: Meetings of Australian and State Labour Ministers on 23 February 1973 in Melbourne	Mr Cameron
11 April	: Components of the Growth of Australia's Major Urban Centres	Mr Uren
17 May	: Proceedings of Conferences between Australian and State Ministers for Housing (Canberra, 23 March 1973 and Adelaide, 5 April 1973)	Mr Johnson
31 May	: Conference of Australian Government and State Ministers with Responsibilities for Wildlife Conservation (Melbourne, 9 March 1973)	Dr Cass
22 August	: Transcript of conference of Australian Government and State Ministers held at Canberra on 10 May 1973	Prime Minister
22 August	: Communiqués relating to meetings of Ministerial Council established to oversight the growth of the Albury-Wodonga areas held on 9 March, 23 May and 4 July 1973	Mr Uren

22 August	:	Commonwealth Bureau of Roads on Effects of stopping freeway Construction in State Capital Cities	Mr Uren
29 August	:	Immigration Task Forces (New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland)	Mr Grassby
30 August	:	National Commission on Social Welfare	Mr Hayden
12 September	:	Proposal for Australian Companies and Securities Legislation-Report by Prof. Loss	Senator Murphy
13 September	:	Lake Pedder Inquiry	Dr Cass
27 September	:	Protection Commission-Inquiry re formation of	Mr Whitlam
27 September	:	A review of Public Transport Investment Proposals for the Australian Capital Cities 1973-4 - Bureau of Transport Economics	Mr Jones
10 October	:	Migrant Task Force Committee - Western Australia	Mr Grassby
8 November	:	Australian Council for the Arts - Final report on the future workings of the Council and its Boards	Mr Whitlam
13 November	:	National Estate - Principles and Policies Submission to the task force (by the Department of Urban and Regional Development)	Mr Uren
15 November	:	Migrant Task Force Committee - South Australia	Mr Grassby
27 November	:	The Report on Prices and Incomes by Mr T. C. Winter	Mr Whitlam

NOTE: A number of other reports have been presented but as they are pursuant to legislation, they are not included in this list. Nor have reports from Parliamentary Committees been listed.

LEGISLATIVE RECORD TO 28 NOVEMBER 1973A. STATISTICS OF GOVERNMENT BILLS

	1973	1972	1971
Number of Bills brought before the Parliament	242	146	148
Number of Bills passed by the Parliament	158	139	137

B. BILLS REJECTED BY THE SENATE TO 28 NOVEMBER 1973

Nine Bills were rejected by the Senate:

- . Commonwealth Electoral Bill (No. 2) 1973
- . Conciliation and Arbitration Bill 1973
- . Senate (Representation of Territories) Bill 1973
- . Representation Bill 1973
- . Commonwealth Electoral Bill (No. 2) 1973*
- . Lands Acquisition (Australian Capital Territory) Bill 1973
- . Senate (Representation of Territories) Bill 1973*
- . Representation Bill 1973*
- . Seas and Submerged Lands (Royalty on Minerals) Bill 1973

(Those defeated a second time are marked with an asterisk)

C. BILLS DEFERRED BY THE SENATE TO 28 NOVEMBER 1973

- . Trade Practices Bill 1973
- . Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Bill (No.2)
- . Australian Industry Development Corporation Bill 1973
- . National Investment Fund Bill 1973

CONSTITUTION ALTERATION BILLS

1. Constitution Alteration (Prices) Bill - to amend the Constitution to enable the Australian Parliament to control prices.
2. Constitution Alteration (Incomes) Bill - to amend the Constitution to enable the Australian Parliament to legislate with respect to incomes.
3. Constitution Alteration (Simultaneous Elections) Bill - to provide for simultaneous elections of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
4. Constitution Alteration (Democratic Elections) Bill - to establish electorates in each State in which the number of people is, as nearly as practicable, the same, and to enable State Houses of Parliament to be elected directly by the people.
5. Constitution Alteration (Local Government Bodies) Bill - to make funds available direct to local government, both by way of grants and by loans at lower interest rates.
6. Constitution Alteration (Mode of Altering the Constitution) Bill - to facilitate alterations to the Constitution.

In addition, the Government has foreshadowed the introduction of a Bill to amend the Constitution to permit the Australian Parliament to refer matters to any State Parliament or Parliaments and to permit any State Parliament or Parliaments to refer matters to the Australian Parliament with identical provisions concerning terms and conditions, duration or revocation.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

A. DEPARTMENTS ABOLISHED, ABSORBED OR RE-NAMED

Air
Army
Civil Aviation
Education and Science
Environment, Aborigines and the Arts
External Territories
Housing
Interior
Labour and National Service
National Development
Navy
Shipping and Transport
Social Services
Trade and Industry
Works

B. DEPARTMENTS CREATED

Aboriginal Affairs
Capital Territory
Education
Environment and Conservation
Housing and Construction
Labour
Media
Minerals and Energy
Northern Development
Northern Territory
Overseas Trade
Science
Secondary Industry
Services and Property
Social Security
Special Minister of State
Tourism and Recreation
Transport
Urban and Regional Development

INITIATIVES IN EDUCATION

MAJOR INITIATIVES

Establishment of Interim Committee for Australian Schools Commission.

Acceptance of recommendations of Interim Committee for Schools Commission for \$660 million program of assistance to schools for 1974 and 1975.

Establishment of Australian Pre-Schools Committee

Australian Government to assume financial responsibility for Tertiary Education.

Increase of 92% in expenditure on Education in 1973/74 Budget.

Abolition of fees in tertiary Education Institutions.

Provision of \$188 million for Teacher Education during current triennium.

New non-competitive means tested living allowances for all tertiary students.

Means tested allowances for children in last two years of secondary school.

\$10 million for pre-school education and \$8 million for construction and operation of child care centres.

Establishment of Technical and Further Education Committee.

Extension of Aboriginal Secondary Grants Scheme.

Assistance for Education of Isolated Children.

OTHER INITIATIVES

Library Grant of \$5 million to Colleges of Advanced Education.

Increases in Commonwealth Teaching Scholarships.

Special Scholarships for Pre-School Teachers.

Training of Dental Therapists in New Zealand.

Increase in number of training college places for dental therapists.

Additional places for training of Social Workers.

Extra \$10 million to States for Capital expenditure for Technical Education.

\$3 million for assistance to destitute tertiary students.

Child Care Standards Committee established.

Establishment of Advisory Committee on Child Care Research.

Increases in salaries for academic staff in Universities and C.A.E.'s.

Establishment of Curriculum Development Centre.

Establishment of Education Research Institute.

Study of Education of Servicemens children.

Expansion of Post-graduate awards scheme.

Post-Graduate School of Management to be established.

Funds for emergency classroom accommodation for migrant children's education.

Improvements in Apprenticeship Schemes.

Establishment of A.C.T. Schools Authority.

Investigation of proposals to finance private teachers colleges.

Inquiry into A.C.T. Technical Education.

Evaluation Study of Aboriginal Secondary Grants Scheme.

THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR GOVERNMENT'S WELFARE REFORMS

SOCIAL SECURITY

<u>BENEFIT</u>	<u>SNEDDEN BUDGET</u>	<u>CREAN BUDGET</u>
	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
	\$	\$
<u>Age and Invalid Pension</u>		
Standard (single) rate	20.00	23.00*
Married rate (combined)	34.50	40.50*
<u>Widows' Pension</u>		
Class A	20.00	23.00*
Classes B and C	17.25	23.00*
Each dependent child	4.50	5.00
<u>Unemployment Short-term, Sickness and Special Benefit</u>		
Single Adult	17.00	23.00*
Married person with dependent spouse	25.00	40.50*
Each dependent child	4.50	5.00
<u>Long-term Sickness Benefit</u>		
Single adult	20.00	23.00*
Married person with dependent spouse	28.00	40.50*
Each dependent child	4.50	5.00
<u>Supporting Mother's Benefit + †</u>		
Pension as for Class A Widow	Nil ⁺	23.00 ^{†+}
Each dependent child	Nil	5.00
Mother's Allowance	Nil	4.00
<u>Double Orphan's Pension</u>		
To guardian of a child both of whose parents are deceased, or where one deceased and whereabouts of other parent unknown	Nil	10.00

* All payments to be increased next Autumn.

+ Previously Australian Government reimbursed States for half cost of this support of deserted wives, wives of prisoners and other women with children but with no male breadwinner after 6 months elapsed from event which qualifies.

† At present support provided after 6 months - negotiations proceeding to assume responsibility from States for whole period. It is planned to effect the take-over from the 1974 Budget.

NOTE: The above list is restricted to Social Security benefits for which there is personal benefit payment.

REPATRIATION

<u>BENEFITS</u>	<u>SNEDDEN BUDGET</u> <u>1972</u> \$	<u>CREAN BUDGET</u> <u>1973</u> \$
<u>War Pensions</u>		
Special rate (T & PI)	48.00	55.60
Intermediate rate	34.00	38.80
General rate (100%)	14.00	19.00
War widows' pension	20.00	23.00
Domestic allowance	8.50	9.50
<u>Service Pensions</u>		
Single rate	20.00	23.00
Married rate (combined)	34.50	40.50
Each dependent child	4.50	5.00

TEXT OF TREATIES ETC.
PRESENTED TO THE PARLIAMENT

- 3 April : United Kingdom/Australian Trade Agreement - letters exchanged during the process of termination of the Agreement.
- 4 April : International Cocoa Agreement 1972
- 15 May : Convention 131 concerning minimum wage fixing adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 54th session.
- 22 May : Convention 111 concerning the abolishment of discrimination in employment and occupation adopted by the International Labour Conference in 1958.
- 29 May : Treaties to which Australia has become a party by signature:
1. Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Malaysia relating to Air Services, signed at Sydney on 4 October 1972.
 2. Exchange of Notes between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United Kingdom constituting an Agreement concerning the establishment of a station to monitor compliance with the Partial Test Ban Treaty, signed at Canberra on 31 October 1972.
 3. Agreement between Australia and the Netherlands concerning old Dutch Shipwrecks, signed at The Hague on 6 November, 1972.
 4. Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation Financial Agreement 1973 drawn up at Ottawa on 24 November 1972 and signed for Australia at London on 30 March 1973.
 5. Agreement Terminating the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation Financial Agreement of 1969, drawn up at Ottawa on 24 November 1972 and signed for Australia at London on 30 March 1973.
- Agreement which has been signed by Australia and which will enter into force after Notes have been exchanged by the signatories:
6. Trade Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, signed at Canberra on 14 November 1972.

Treaties in relation to which Australia has deposited instruments of ratification:

7. Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Treaty was opened for signature at London, Washington and Moscow on 1 July 1968. Australia signed the Treaty on 27 February 1970. The instruments of ratification were deposited for Australia at London, Washington and Moscow on 23 January 1973.
8. Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof. The treaty was opened for signature at London, Washington and Moscow on 11 February 1971 and signed for Australia on that date. The instruments of ratification were deposited for Australia at London, Washington and Moscow on 23 January 1973.
9. Amendment to Article 61 of the Charter of the United Nations. The amendment was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 20 December 1971. Australia deposited its instrument of ratification on 13 November 1972.
10. Protocol amending Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs drawn up at Geneva on 25 March 1972. Australia signed and deposited its instrument of ratification on 22 November 1972.
11. Convention concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise (ILO Convention No. 87), adopted at San Francisco on 17 June 1948. Australia deposited its instrument of ratification on 28 February 1973.
12. Convention concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise and to Bargain Collectively (ILO Convention No. 98), adopted at Geneva on 8 June 1949. Australia deposited its instrument of ratification on 28 February 1973.

Statute to which Australia has become a party by accession:

13. Statute of the International Institute for the Unification of Private International Law, drawn up at Rome on 15 March 1940 and acceded to by Australia on 21 March 1973.

Convention and Treaties to which Australia is considering becoming a party by ratification:

14. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, open for signature at London, Moscow and Washington on 28 September 1971 and signed for Australia on 10 April 1972.

15. Treaty between Australia and the Republic of Austria concerning Extradition, signed at Canberra on 29 March 1973.
16. Treaty between Australia and Sweden concerning Extradition, signed at Stockholm on 20 March 1973.
17. Agreement between Australia and Indonesia concerning Certain Boundaries between Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, signed at Jakarta on 12 February 1973.

15 Oct : Treaties to which Australia has become a party by signature:

1. Agreement establishing the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation, signed at Apia on 17 April 1973.
2. Exchange of Letters constituting an Agreement between Australia and New Zealand on Rates and Margins of Preference, signed at Canberra and Wellington on 7 May 1973.
3. Protocol relating to Milk Fat, drawn up at Geneva on 2 April 1973 and signed for Australia on 11 May 1973.
4. Exchange of Notes between Australia and Laos constituting a further Amendment to the Agreement of 24 December 1963 concerning the Foreign Exchange Operations Fund for Laos, signed at Vientiano on 1 June 1973.
5. Protocol to Amend the Agreement on North Atlantic Ocean Stations signed at Paris on 25 February 1954 and amended on 13 May 1970. The Protocol was opened for signature at Montreal on 1 December 1972 and signed for Australia on 4 July 1973.
6. Trade Agreement between Australia and the People's Republic of China, signed at Canberra on 24 July 1973.
7. Exchange of Notes between Australia and the United States of America constituting an Agreement Extending the Agreement of 16 October 1968 relating to Scientific and Technical Co-operation, signed at Washington on 30 July 1973.
8. Exchange of Notes between Australia and the United States of America constituting an Agreement concerning the Launching of seven Acrobee Rockets, signed at Canberra on 18 September 1973.

Agreement and Conventions to which Australia has become a party by accession:

9. Agreement relating to Refugee Seamen drawn up at The Hague on 23 November 1957 and acceded to by Australia on 18 April 1973.
10. Convention on Nomenclature for the Classification of Goods in Customs Tariffs signed at Brussels on 15 December 1950 and Protocol of Amendment signed at Brussels on 1 July 1955. Australia acceded to the Convention and Protocol of Amendment on 18 April 1973.
11. Convention relating to International Exhibitions signed at Paris on 22 November 1928, and amended by the Protocols of 10 May 1948, 16 November 1966 and 30 November 1972. Australia acceded to the Convention as amended by the 1948 and 1966 Protocols on 6 September 1973 and to the 1972 Protocol on 7 September 1973.

Convention and Covenants to which Australia is considering becoming a party by ratification:

12. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, drawn up at Washington on 3 March 1973 and signed for Australia on 21 September 1973.
13. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, opened for signature at New York on 19 December 1966 and signed for Australia on 18 December 1972.
14. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, opened for signature at New York on 19 December 1966 and signed for Australia on 18 December 1972.