



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 159

10 December 1973

ANNUAL LEAVE

The Australian Government has decided to introduce legislation to provide for the payment of an annual leave loading to all its employees of the Australian Government.

The legislation which will be introduced to the Parliament next year will provide for the payment of a loading of an amount equal to average weekly earnings of all adult male wage and salary earners as disclosed by the Statistician for the September quarter immediately preceding the accrual of such leave.

It will apply to leave accruing on or after 1 January 1974.

The legislation will not seek to cover leave accruing in 1973. However, when the various Public Service Unions' claims on annual leave loadings come before the Arbitrator, the Government will indicate that it would raise no objections to an interim settlement in respect of leave accruing on or after 1 January 1973 on the following basis:

An annual leave loading of 17½ per cent of the employees salary at date of accrual, for the period of leave accrued at that date, subject to the total bonus payment not exceeding the equivalent of the average weekly earnings figure for the September quarter of the preceding year, or alternatively, the shift loading which the employee would have received had he been on annual leave if such shift loading exceeds the leave bonus.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.