



# PRIME MINISTER

11 June 1974

Press Statement No. 265

## NEW MINISTRY

The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, said that since the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party had re-elected the whole ministry, he had proposed to the Governor-General that the Ministry continue in office with only such changes as were necessary to take account of the defeat of the Minister for Immigration, Mr Grassby, and changes in administrative arrangements.

The Prime Minister said that he had seen the Governor-General and that with his agreement he was now making known details of the Ministry and of administrative changes which would be submitted to the Governor-General tomorrow.

The Ministry changes will be -

Dr. Cairns becomes Deputy Prime Minister as well as Minister for Overseas Trade

Senator Wriedt becomes Minister for Agriculture instead of Minister for Primary Industry

Mr. Cameron becomes Minister for Labor and Immigration instead of Minister for Labour

Senator Wheeldon becomes Minister for Repatriation and Compensation

Mr Bishop becomes Postmaster-General

Mr Enderby becomes Minister for Manufacturing Industry, instead of Minister for Secondary Industry and Minister for Supply.

There are no specific responsibilities attaching to the position of Deputy Prime Minister. However, the Prime Minister said that in recognition of the special interests of Dr. Cairns in the economic area, the Priorities Review Staff would in future report to him and the proposed Adjustment Assistance Agency would be responsible to him.

Senator Wriedt becomes Minister for Agriculture rather than Minister for Primary Industry at his own specific request. The functions of his Department will remain unaltered but the change in name recognises practice overseas and in most Australian States. Mr Ives will continue to be Secretary of the Department.

Mr Cameron will hold the new portfolio of Labor and Immigration. To his existing functions as Minister for Labour will be added control of assisted migration. In this way, it will be possible to ensure that migrants are brought to Australia only when suitable jobs are available and in a way that will ensure welcome and understanding from unions and management. Other Immigration functions will also be undertaken for the time being by Mr Cameron but will later be transferred to such Departments as Foreign Affairs, Education and Social Security.

Mr Whitlam recalled that Mr Cameron had served as Opposition Shadow Minister for Immigration.

Dr Ian Sharp, Secretary to the Department of Labour, will become Secretary to the new Department. Mr R.E. Armstrong, Secretary to the Department of Immigration, will become special adviser to the Minister and the new Department on immigration matters.

Following his election as the only new Minister, Senator Wheeldon becomes Minister for Repatriation and Compensation. As such, his functions will be wider than those of the former Minister for Repatriation in that this function is now seen as part of a wider total function of compensation for deserving groups in the community.

The purpose of creating the new Department is to transform the old Department of Repatriation into a more comprehensive whole. There is no question of abolishing the Department: it will be expanded, and there will be no diminution in the care and concern for returned servicemen - only extension of the functions of the Department to cover all aspects of compensation.

The Repatriation Commission will continue to operate as at present, under the Chairmanship of Mr Kingsland, who will be appointed head of the new Department of Repatriation and Compensation. The compensation function will include such matters as Commonwealth employees compensation, seamen's compensation, natural disasters, air accidents, the Housing Loans Insurance Corporation and Defence Service Homes Loans Insurance and the proposed Australian Government Insurance Office.

A new responsibility of the Minister and his Department will be to co-ordinate action needed to put into effect the recommendations of the Woodhouse Committee on National Rehabilitation and Compensation. The report of the Committee is expected by the end of the month.

Senator Bishop will become the new Postmaster-General. He takes this portfolio from Mr Bowen and will be responsible for presiding over the establishment of the two new Commissions - the Postal Commission and the Telecommunications Commission - proposed by the Royal Commission on the Post Office under Sir James Vernon.

Mr Enderby becomes Minister for Manufacturing Industry in place of his former portfolios of Secondary Industry and Supply. The new name given to this Ministry reflects the addition to it of the manufacturing functions of the Department of Supply.

The Prime Minister said that the new head of the Department of Manufacturing Industry would be Mr N.S. Currie, at present head of the Department of Supply. The Department of Supply will be abolished and most of its functions will be included in the new Department of Manufacturing Industry.

Responsibility for the proposed Australian Government Purchasing Commission, which will be set up following recommendations to this effect from the Committee on Government Procurement under the Chairmanship of Sir Walter Scott, will be with the Special Minister of State, Mr Bowen.

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