



**PRIME MINISTER**

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 301

20 August 1974

PUBLIC LENDING RIGHT FOR AUSTRALIAN AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS

The Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, today announced the appointment of the Australian Authors' Fund Committee which will implement the Public Lending Right for Australian authors and publishers.

Mr. Whitlam said that the appointment of the Committee followed the acceptance by the Government in principle of the report of the Committee of Inquiry into Public Lending Rights established by the Literature Board of the Australian Council for the Arts.

The Public Lending Right was a long overdue recognition of the service rendered to the community by authors and publishers. The Scandinavian countries had pioneered the public lending right and Australia and New Zealand were the first two English-speaking countries to implement it.

Mr. Whitlam said the Public Lending Right was an important part of the Government's program of assistance to the arts. It would provide a valuable income supplement for writers, many of whose incomes were subject to extreme fluctuations, and an encouragement to publishers.

The Chairman of the A.A.F. Committee will be Richard Hall, a member of the Literature Board, who had served on the Committee of Inquiry. Mr. Hall is an adviser to the Minister for Manufacturing Industry, Mr. Enderby. The position is part-time.

Other members of the Committee are:-

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| Mr. David Martin   | - | Novelist, of Beechworth, Victoria.                     |
|                    | - | Nominee of the Literature Board.                       |
| Mr. Colin Simpson  | - | Author, of Gordon, New South Wales.                    |
|                    | - | Representing the interests of writers.                 |
| Mr. Frank Thompson | - | Manager of Queensland University Press, Brisbane, Qld. |
|                    | - | Representing the interests of publishers.              |
| Mr. Barrett Reid   | - | State Library of Victoria, of St. Andrews, Victoria.   |
|                    | - | Representing the interests of librarians.              |

Representatives from the Attorney-General's Department and Treasury will be appointed to the Committee.

Funds have been appropriated to provide for retrospective payments from 1 April this year. For the first 15 months of the scheme payments would be made on the basis of a pilot sample of municipal and subscription libraries throughout Australia.

Mr. Whitlam said he wished to pay particular tribute to the work of Professor Geoffrey Blainey who had chaired the Committee of Inquiry.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.