



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 314

2 September 1974

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL GALLERY ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE

The Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, today announced that the activities of the Australian National Gallery Acquisitions Committee would wind down shortly with the appointment of an Interim Council to take over all Gallery affairs.

The Acquisitions Committee has comprised:

Mr. James Gleeson (Sydney), Chairman
Mr. Leonard French (Melbourne)
Mr. Clifford Last (Melbourne)
Mr. James Mollison (Canberra)
Mr. Fred Williams (Melbourne)

Over the last 18 months the Committee has been responsible for all recommendations on acquisitions for the National Gallery, including Jackson Pollock's "Blue Poles" and many other important works of art.

The Committee initiated a new era in the history of public collecting in Australia, particularly of world-wide modern and contemporary art.

The Australian Government is appreciative of the individual and collective contributions of members of the Committee which it believes constitute an important step towards the creation of what it is hoped may become one of the great collections of the twentieth century.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.