



# PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No. 328

13 September 1974

## PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD WAGE DECISION

The Prime Minister, Mr. E.G. Whitlam said today that he welcomed the decision of the Public Service Board to grant no further increase to Public Servants in the clerical, postal and keyboard areas beyond the \$16 per week increase which had been announced by the Board on June 21.

Mr. Whitlam said that the decision of the Public Service Board was an important example for the rest of the community of the restraint which his Government sought. He added that the Government's total approach to the related issues of increases in income, inflation and management of the economy included positive support for the principle of automatic quarterly cost of living adjustments (wage indexation).

Mr. Whitlam recalled that following the Parliament's decision to reject the determinations of the Remuneration Tribunal which dealt with the salaries of Members of Parliament, Departmental Heads and office holders, his Government had decided not to implement the Tribunal's recommendations concerning Judges and he had telegraphed each of the Premiers urging that they take similar action. Mr. Whitlam went on to say that as the Treasurer had stated on 23 July the Government had invited the Prices Justification Tribunal to scrutinize with care price increases based on wage costs in excess of awards.

The Prime Minister said that these actions by his Government were an earnest of the Government's intention to ensure restraint in the growth of wages and other forms of income.

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