

PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO: 367 366 A

AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SERVICE

The Prime Minister, Mr E.G. Whitlam, Q.C., M.P., said in his statement on the economy in Parliament this evening that he would issue a statement on the question of staff numbers in the Australian Public Service. In his statement in Parliament, Mr Whitlam said that:

"Our program of Government expenditure has been achieved without excessive increases in the number of public servants. The staff ceiling control on the Australian Public Service will be retained in a modified form. This will be the subject of a separate statement."

The separate statement is as follows:

"The staff ceiling control on the Australian Public Service which was announced in my statement to the Premiers. Conference on 7 June will be retained, so that the healthy influence on departmental efficiency of the disciplines of internal priority review and staff redeployment will be maintained. The Government proposes, however, an extension of the trainee intake to the Public Service by up to 450 so that additional appropriate opportunities are made available for vocational training, and an additional intake of 1,000 youth and school leaver recruits to basegrade office categories so as to maintain an intake more consistent with recent years. These special intakes will lift the staff growth ceiling of the Public Service above the previously announced figure."

CANBERRA. A.C.T..