



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 460

5 March 1975

PASSPORTS

Administration of the Passports Act is to become the responsibility of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. This follows a decision in October 1974 that the issue of travel documents to Australian citizens was appropriately a function of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who exercises responsibility for Consular matters relating to Australian citizens overseas. The reorganisation follows from a continuing review of the functions of the former Department of Immigration.

Staff previously engaged in issuing passports in the Department of Labor and Immigration will be transferred to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

As from 6 March applications for Australian passports should be made to the office of the Department of Foreign Affairs in the State in which the applicant lives. For the convenience of the public, the Department of Labor and Immigration offices in Darwin, Townsville, Newcastle and Wollongong will continue to issue passports to local applicants.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.