

PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No.488 7 April 1975

PRIORITIES REVIEW STAFF REVIEW

The Prime Minister Mr Whitlam today announced that he had asked for an urgent review of the Australian Government's income maintenance and allied schemes, including their relationship with the general social security system, and its schemes for structural adjustment assistance to employers. The review will be carried out by the Priorities Review Staff.

Mr Whitlam said that the Government had introduced various programs to aid structural adjustment in both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. Mr Whitlam said that these programs had done a great deal to mitigate financial and social hardships associated with long-term adjustments but that problems and anomalies have arisen as economic circumstances have changed. Mr Whitlam said that there was now a need to take stock of the various programs in operation. He emphasised that the Government would filfil its obligations to persons and firms eligible for benefits under existing schemes.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.