



PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No. 494
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COMMISSION FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The Australian Government has decided to establish a Commission for Consumer Affairs to co-ordinate consumer standards and handle public education on consumer matters.

The Commission will be an independent statutory authority responsible to the Minister for Science, Mr Bill Morrison.

It will develop consumer product standards and information standards for promulgation under the Trade Practices Act.

The Commission will provide a focal point for consumer groups and industry in their dealings with the Australian Government on consumer matters. It is also charged with liaison with State Government consumer affairs bodies.

In formulating standards, it will co-ordinate the work of the various expert standing committees such as the Food Standards Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council. The Department of Health will retain responsibility for therapeutic drug standards.

The Commission for Consumer Affairs will be headed by a Commissioner who will have Permanent Head status. There will be a part-time Advisory Consumer Council comprising representatives of the Australian and State public services, consumer and manufacturing industry organisations, educational institutions and trade unions.

Where necessary, the Commission will hold public hearings on the preparation of consumer standards.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.