



PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No.569
6 October 1975

TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

The Prime Minister, the Hon. E.G. Whitlam, and the Premier of N.S.W., the Hon. T.L. Lewis, announced today that formal agreement had been reached for the transfer from the State to the Commonwealth of responsibility for certain aboriginal affairs in N.S.W. with effect from 1st July 1975.

Under the new arrangements, the Australian Government will assume increased responsibility for the development of the Aboriginal people of New South Wales, including responsibilities for the planning, co-ordination and financing of activities designed to promote their economic, social and cultural advancement.

Except for a small nucleus of staff to handle State responsibilities under the arrangements, the staff employed in the N.S.W. Directorate of Aboriginal Affairs will transfer to the Australian Public Service.

Under the arrangements, the N.S.W. Housing Commission will continue to administer special housing for aboriginals throughout the State while the N.S.W. Minister for Youth, Ethnic and Community Affairs, Mr S.G. Mauger, and the N.S.W. Aboriginal Lands Trust will be responsible for housing on reserves.

The Prime Minister and the Premier said that there would continue to be close co-operation between their two Governments aimed at improving the welfare of the Aboriginal people of N.S.W. and the new agreement would help further this objective.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.