



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

2 February 1976

REVIEW OF BODIES CONDUCTING INQUIRIES

The Government has completed a review of over fifty bodies of various kinds which have been conducting inquiries for the Commonwealth.

As a result of this review it has been decided that 14 bodies will be terminated immediately.

The remaining bodies have been given specific dates by which they will be expected to report. Most are expected to complete their activities by 30 June 1976.

The bodies whose activities are to be terminated and those which are being directed or asked to report by certain dates are shown on the attached list.

It has also been decided to introduce other measures designed to keep the costs of continuing inquiries to a minimum. These include the elimination as far as possible of overseas and internal travel, restrictions on use of consultants and maximum use of available departmental resources.

The Australian Government Publishing Service is to be made responsible for publishing reports and will aim at making significant savings on current estimates of their costs.

Ministers are being asked to review the operations of the large number of continuing advisory bodies within their portfolios, with the aim of reducing their number and making savings in their operations.

In addition the Government has decided that the Social Welfare Commission and the Australian Housing Corporation, should be abolished while the functions of the Australian Development Assistance Agency and the Road Safety and Standards Authority should be taken over by Government Departments.

The Government has taken these decisions on the basis that the functions of the four bodies concerned can be carried out more efficiently and cheaply and more properly under Ministerial and Parliamentary control if conducted within a departmental framework.

The decision to abolish the Social Welfare Commission confirms a decision of the previous Government.

The only function presently being performed by the Australian Housing Corporation is the administration of the Defence Service Homes Scheme. The Government is examining the best method of administering this Scheme and will be consulting with the R.S.L. in the matter.

The Australian Development Assistance Agency is to be converted into a Bureau of Overseas Aid in the Department of Foreign Affairs, while the Road Safety and Standards Authority is to be incorporated in the Department of Transport.

In addition, the Australian Drug Advisory Council is to be abolished immediately.

INQUIRIES BEING TERMINATED

BUSINESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Working party on restrictive trade practices

ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

National recreation survey task force

River Murray working party

Study group into feasibility of a National Sports Institute

HEALTH

Interim Committee for the production of pharmaceutical products

Committee to review radio pharmaceuticals, radio chemicals and radio biologicals

IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS

Survey of Vietnamese refugees in Australia

INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Committee to advise on policies for manufacturing industry

POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Australian advisory committee on media research

PRIMARY INDUSTRY

Special Committee on apple and pear juice

Special Committee to examine the problems of the wine and brandy industry

SCIENCE

Advisory Committee on research into crown of thorns starfish

SOCIAL SECURITY

Advisory Panel of Architects on aged persons homes

Social Security Advisory Council

BODIES BEING DIRECTED TO
REPORT BY DATES INDICATED

<u>BODY</u>	<u>DATE</u>
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (RC = Royal Commission)</u>	
Alleged payments to maritime unions (RC)	Report by 30 April 1976
Australian Government Administration (RC)	Report by 30 June 1976
Human Relationships (RC)	Report by 31 December 1976
Inquiry into Land Tenures	Report by 5 March 1976
Intelligence and Security (RC)	Report by 30 June 1976
Maritime Industry Commission of Inquiry	Report by 30 April 1976
Norfolk Island (RC)	Report by 31 May 1976
Petroleum and petroleum products (RC)	Report by 31 May 1976
Public Libraries Committee of Inquiry	Report by 30 March 1976
Tasmanian Transport Charges Commission of Inquiry	Report by 5 March 1976
<u>EDUCATION</u>	
Working party on the transition from school to work	Report by 30 June 1976
Katherine rural college planning committee	Report by 30 April 1976
Working party on English as a second language, Materials for Aboriginal children and adults	Complete task by 31 December 1976
Committee on teaching of migrant languages in schools	Report by 31 March 1976
Interim ACT authority for technical and further education - working party on arrangements for training technical teachers after 1976	Complete task by 30 June 1976
Committee of Inquiry into post secondary education in Tasmania	Report by 29 February 1976
Working party on rehabilitation needs and geriatrics	Report immediately
Working party on clinical pharmacology	Report by 29 February 1976

EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS

Northrup study of future
arrangements for the
Australian stevedoring Industry

Report by 29 February 1976

ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Fraser Island Inquiry

Report by 31 March 1976

Ranger Uranium Inquiry

Report by 30 June 1976

HEALTH

Committee of Inquiry into
chiropractic, Homeopathy,
Osteopathy and Naturopathy

Report by 30 April 1976

POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Program standards advisory committee

Report by 29 February 1976

REPATRIATION

Independent non-Parliamentary
Inquiry into the repatriation
system

Report immediately

SOCIAL SECURITY

National superannuation Committee
of Inquiry

Report by 30 June 1976

Poverty Inquiry

Report by 30 June 1976