



# PRIME MINISTER

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## INQUIRY INTO CARE OF THE AGED AND THE INFIRM

The Government has set up a committee to inquire into Federal programs for the care of the aged and the infirm. The Committee comprises:

- . Mr Austin Holmes (Chairman), Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- . Dr Sidney Sax, (Hospitals and Health Services Commission) Department of Health
- . Mr Keith Medbury, Department of Social Security
- . Mr Neil Hyden, Department of the Treasury.

The Government is concerned to meet pressing needs both effectively and efficiently. The Committee will be primarily concerned with the scope for rationalising the large number of existing Federal programs in this area.

The Government has noted the view expressed in recent reports that programs aimed at the aged and the infirm have been launched without reference to an overall framework or philosophy.

In bringing forward its recommendations the Committee will pay close attention to previous reports in this area; notably those by the Social Welfare Commission and the Commission of Inquiry into Poverty. The Committee will consult as appropriate with concerned organisations, community groups and individuals.

The Committee's terms of reference are attached.

COMMITTEE ON CARE OF THE AGED AND THE INFIRM

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (1) The Committee shall examine and report on -
  - (a) the effectiveness and efficiency of existing Government programs and arrangements for the provision of care for the aged and the infirm, including those programs concerned with aged persons homes and hostels, nursing homes and domiciliary nursing care;
  - (b) the appropriate role of the Commonwealth Government bearing in mind the responsibility of State and Local Governments and the activities of voluntary agencies;
  - (c) the relationship between programs for the aged and the infirm and other health and welfare programs.
- (2) Against the background of the Government's objective of providing assistance to those most in need while encouraging self reliance and participation at the local level, the Committee shall have regard in particular to -
  - (a) the scope for greater coherence in planning new programs and for the rationalisation of existing arrangements, including the examination of possible new approaches;
  - (b) the scope for economies in Commonwealth Government expenditure without compromising desirable long term arrangements.
- (3) The Committee shall include in its consideration available analyses and recommendations in previous reports presented to Governments in this area.
- (4) After consultation with the Minister for Social Security and the Minister for Health, the Committee shall report to the Prime Minister.
- (5) The Committee is expected to report as soon as possible, preferably by 30 September 1976. An interim report should be presented by 9 July.