

PRE-BUDGET ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS

(Statement by the Acting Prime Minister)

Because of its concern to take account of the widest possible range of views and opinions, the Government will again this year be holding its annual pre-Budget economic consultations with key national bodies. The consultations will be held at Parliament House, Canberra, on 30 June and 1 July. A list of organisations which have been invited to participate in the consultations is attached.

Senior representatives of these organisations have been asked to engage in a frank, face-to-face exchange of views on economic matters with Ministers. Among subjects to be discussed will be the state of the economy and the strategies which the Government is following in pursuit of its policy for economic recovery and inflation control.

The Government places great stress on the process of consultation with the private sector. One of its first actions as a Government was to establish the Economic Consultative Group - a body of 19 prominent Australian business and trade union leaders. The next meeting of that Group will be held in the near future. More recently we have had discussions with the ACTU and other peak union organisations - similar talks with employer bodies are planned for later this month. Ministers also participated actively in the recent private enterprise convention organised by the