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ACTING PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

JULY 23, 1976

INQUIRY INTO CO-ORDINATION IN WELFARE AND HEALTH

The Government has established a small task force to examine welfare services and community based programs in the health/welfare/community development area. The Task Force comprises:

- Mr P.H. Bailey, O.B.E., Chairman (in recent times a member of the Royal Commission on Australian Government Administration and Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet)
- Mr J.D. Rimes (formerly Chairman of the N.S.W. Health Commission, and office-holder in several voluntary organisations)
- Mr E.S. Lightly (First Assistant Commissioner, Commonwealth Public Service Board)

Appointment of the Task Force reflects the Government's concern at the duplication and overlap of Commonwealth services and programs in these fields. The Task Force will report on the co-ordination of both policy development and the delivery of programs. The Terms of Reference for the Task Force are attached.

The Task Force will welcome expressions of view from community organisations and invites those interested to make contact with the Secretary of the Task Force, c/- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra.

TASK FORCE ON CO-ORDINATION IN WELFARE AND HEALTH

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Against the background of the Government's Federalism policy and its concern at the proliferation and overlap of Commonwealth services and programs in the health, welfare and community development fields, the Task Force shall examine and report on -
 - (a) the identification of particular services and programs, currently being undertaken by the Commonwealth, in the health, welfare and community development fields, which could be better delivered by a State, local government or voluntary agency and the administration of which could be transferred to the States;
 - (b) the possibilities for elimination of individual programs and consolidation into broader based programs in a manner which enables more efficient and economic delivery whether by the Commonwealth or the States, and the establishment of appropriate consultative arrangements with the States, local government and voluntary agencies on future policy planning, administration and service delivery in the health, welfare and community development fields;
 - (c) the possibility of achieving better co-ordination and avoiding overlap by more specific definitions of programs, eligible projects and eligible organisations, having in mind that co-ordination could be effected at the State and local government level without Commonwealth involvement; and
 - (d) the continuing machinery which should be established to co-ordinate social policy development at the Commonwealth level.
2. The Task Force shall -
 - (a) include in its consideration available analyses and recommendations arising from other inquiries including the Commission of Inquiry into Poverty, the Royal Commission on Australian Government Administration, the Administrative Review Committee, and the Committee on Care of the Aged and the Infirm; and
 - (b) take account of views expressed by consumer groups and voluntary agencies, noting the Government's support of the concept of maximum realistic community participation in health/welfare programs funded by the Commonwealth.
3. The Task Force should present an interim report by 31 October.