



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

24 MAY 1977

### MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER

Mr. John Howard, the Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs, has been appointed also Minister Assisting the Prime Minister. He will continue to hold his present portfolio.

Mr. Howard will be assisting across the whole range of matters handled by the Prime Minister other than the areas covered by other Ministers assisting the Prime Minister. Mr. Howard will handle some policy matters on the Prime Minister's behalf and, in particular, he will relieve the Prime Minister of some of the day-to-day administrative load.

Mr. Howard will work closely with the Prime Minister's office and keep the Prime Minister fully briefed on matters he is handling on his behalf. Mr. Howard will begin his new duties immediately.

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Mr. Howard was educated at Earlwood Primary School and Canterbury Boys' High School. He matriculated to Sydney University and graduated in 1961 with a Bachelor of Laws.

Mr. Howard practised as a Solicitor in Sydney until his election as the Member for Bennelong in May 1974. In March 1975 he became Shadow Minister for Consumer Affairs and Commerce, and on the election of the Fraser Government in December 1975 he was appointed Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs.

He is a former Vice President of the New South Wales Division of the Liberal Party.

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