



Mr. Carmody
(21)

PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

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THE WOMEN'S ADVISORY BODY WORKING PARTY

The Women's Advisory Body Working Party was set up by the Government in December 1976, to prepare recommendations on the establishment of ongoing consultative machinery in Women's Affairs.

The Working Party itself was elected from some twenty four voluntary women's organisations to examine alternatives and research the ideas and needs of women throughout Australia in this regard.

The report is the result of nine months work by four women - Mrs Beryl Beaurepaire, Miss Ruth Ross, Ms Pat Harper and Mrs Valerie Fisher.

During this period they examined information on advisory machinery within Australia and overseas, and consulted widely with women in the Australian community.

Both individuals and organisations were invited to forward written or recorded submissions and to attend open forum meetings held in all capital cities and country areas in each State and the territories.

During three months of consultations, Working Party members received 500 written and recorded submissions and spoke with more than 2000 individuals around Australia.

This report should be of considerable interest particularly to all Australian women. I would hope that it would be widely read and discussed. No government decision will be made on the proposal until the public had had an opportunity to study and comment on the recommendations contained in the Report.

I hope that interested persons and organisations would submit their comments to Mr Ian Macphee, Minister Assisting in Women's Affairs, by 8 November 1977.

I would like to thank the members of the Working Party for their efforts in preparing this report. I know that each of them worked extremely hard. Their experience and work had been of great benefit to the Government in its consideration of suitable ongoing advisory machinery in women's affairs.