



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

17 JANUARY 1978

STANDING COMMITTEES OF CABINET

The Prime Minister today announced changes to the structure of the Standing Committees of Cabinet. In addition to the Social Welfare Policy Committee, the establishment of which was announced in the Prime Minister's statement of 19 December 1977, Committees on Monetary Policy and Wages Policy have been established as Standing Committees.

The full list of Committees is:-

Planning and Co-ordination Committee: to facilitate the co-ordination of the Government's medium and long term activities.

Members: Mr Fraser (Chairman) Sen. Withers
Mr Anthony Mr Street
Mr Lynch Mr Nixon
Mr Sinclair Mr Howard
Sen. Carrick

Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee: to consider matters concerned with international relations and defence.

Members: Mr Fraser (Chairman) Mr Howard
Mr Anthony Mr Peacock
Mr Lynch Mr Killen
Mr Sinclair Mr MacKellar
Sen. Withers

Intelligence and Security Committee: to exercise policy control and managerial oversight in respect of internal and external intelligence and security matters.

Members: Mr Fraser (Chairman) Mr Peacock
Mr Anthony Mr Killen
Mr Sinclair Mr Robinson
Sen. Withers Sen. Durack

Machinery of Government Committee: to deal with organisational and administrative matters concerned with the activities of the Government.

Members: Mr Fraser (Chairman)	Mr Robinson
Mr Lynch	Mr Viner
Mr Nixon	Mr Staley
Sen. Carrick	Sen. Durack
Sen. Guilfoyle	

Monetary Policy Committee: to deal with matters relating to interest rates, banking policy and currency exchange rates.

Members: Mr Fraser (Chairman)	Sen. Withers
Mr Anthony	Mr Howard
Mr Lynch	Mr Robinson
Mr Sinclair	

Wages Policy Committee: to deal with National Wage Case and other industrial relations and conciliation and arbitration issues.

Members: Mr Lynch (Chairman)	Mr Peacock
Mr Sinclair	Mr Viner
Mr Street	Sen. Durack
Mr Nixon	Mr Ellicott
Mr Howard	Mr Groom

Government Purchasing Committee: to oversight Government purchasing policy in relation to purchases by Departments and authorities and to scrutinise proposals to purchase imported goods in preference to Australian-made goods.

Members: Mr Lynch (Chairman)	Mr Robinson
Sen. Withers	Mr McLeay
Mr Street	Mr Macphee
Mr Nixon	Mr Fife

Social Welfare Policy Committee: to oversight and consider policies and programs in the health and welfare field.

Members: Mr Lynch (Chairman)	Mr Hunt
Sen. Carrick	Mr MacKellar
Sen. Guilfoyle	Sen. Durack
Mr Robinson	Mr Ellicott
Mr Viner	Mr Groom

General Administrative Committee: to deal with matters not involving new major policy initiatives or of significant economic or financial consequences.

Members: Mr Lynch (Chairman)	Mr Newman
Mr Street	Sen. Webster
Mr Nixon	Mr Staley
Mr Howard	Sen. Durack
Sen. Carrick	Mr Macphee
Mr Robinson	Mr Fife
Mr Hunt	Mr Garland
Mr MacKellar	Mr Ellicott
Mr Adermann	Mr Groom
Mr McLeay	

Legislation Committee: to examine all Bills before they are presented to Parliament and to determine the Parliamentary Program.

Members: Mr Sinclair (Chairman)	Sen. Durack
Sen. Withers	Mr Macphee
Mr Nixon	Mr Garland
Mr Peacock	Mr Ellicott
Mr Viner	Mr Groom
Sen. Webster	

The Prime Minister said that these changes were based on experience of the last two years and would facilitate consideration of matters coming before the Government.

Ad Hoc Committees would continue to be established from time to time to deal with particular issues that might arise but for which there is not a continuing involvement for Ministers.

The system whereby certain Cabinet Committees are supported by Committees of Permanent Heads is being continued.