



PRIME MINISTER

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ETHNIC LIAISON OFFICERS

The Government is taking action to implement a scheme to provide Ethnic Liaison Officers in Government Departments.

It is envisaged that senior officers from the present staff of Departments will be appointed Ethnic Liaison Officers. They will give special attention to all policy, programme and services delivery matters affecting migrants, be directly involved in inter-departmental consultations on ethnic matters, and provide assistance in discussions between their Department and the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Mr MacKellar, has been asked to arrange for his Department to consult with the Public Service Board in implementing and monitoring the scheme.

The Ethnic Affairs Branch of the Department will have a major role in developing the Ethnic Liaison Officers' scheme including the holding of seminars for the officers on migrant needs and cultural differences and in establishing regular consultation and coordination.

Ministers have been asked to arrange for their Departments to cooperate in consultation with the Public Service Board in the development of the scheme.

The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs will provide regular advice on the scheme. The scheme's overall effectiveness will be the subject of a report from the Public Service Board after the scheme has been in operation for 12 months.

An undertaking that Ethnic Liaison Officers would be appointed to Departments was made in the Election Policy Speech of 21 November 1977.

The scheme reflects the Government's concern for the ethnic communities and its obligation to ensure that migrants enjoy their full rights and benefits.
