



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

25 MAY 1978

COMMONWEALTH AND NORTHERN TERRITORY OMBUDSMEN

The Prime Minister announced today the introduction of a Bill into Parliament to amend the Commonwealth Ombudsman Act 1976 to facilitate commencement of the operations of the Northern Territory Ombudsman under the Ombudsman (Northern Territory) Ordinance passed by the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly late last year.

The establishment of a local Ombudsman in the Northern Territory is in line with the Commonwealth Government's decision of 12 July 1977 to advance the Northern Territory to responsible self-government. Additional transfers of functions are planned for 1 July 1978.

Until the Northern Territory Ombudsman commences operations, the Commonwealth Ombudsman's jurisdiction includes the Northern Territory Public Service.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman's jurisdiction in respect of administrative actions undertaken by Commonwealth officials in the Northern Territory will be maintained as it is in the States.