



PRIME MINISTER

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Retirement of Chairman of Public Service Board

The Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, announced today that the Chairman of the Public Service Board, Mr K.C.O. Shann, CBE, had decided to retire from public office for personal and family reasons.

Mr Shann, who is aged 60, was appointed as Chairman of the Board in March 1977, following a distinguished diplomatic career which included postings as Australian Ambassador in Japan, Indonesia and the Philippines, and other postings in London and New York. From 1970 to 1974 he was a Deputy Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs in Canberra.

In paying tribute to Mr Shann, Mr Fraser said "Mick Shann has had a most illustrious career as public administrator and senior diplomat. While I am personally sorry that the Government is losing his services, I wish him well in retirement."

Mr Fraser said that Mr Shann had taken over as Chairman of the Public Service Board in a challenging time for the Public Service. He had made a significant contribution towards the modernisation and greater efficiency of the Service. During his period as Chairman, Mr Shann has been closely involved with implementation of the report of the Royal Commission on Australian Government Administration, and the development of the program of staff interchanges between the Australian Public Service and other areas of employment, including private industry.

Mr Shann is proceeding on leave from 1 September prior to retirement. Mr Fraser said that he expected that Cabinet would consider the question of his replacement shortly. Mr J.C. Taylor, a Commissioner of the Board, would act as Chairman from 1 September while Mr Shann is on leave.

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