



# PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

FRIDAY, 7 MAY 1982

## MINISTRY AND DEPARTMENTAL CHANGES

This statement outlines important changes in the Ministerial and Departmental organisation of the Government. These changes will:

- . make the structure increasingly relevant to current needs;
- . enable more effective attention to be given to certain critical policy areas;
- . rationalise a number of government functions.

The overall re-organisation will mean that there will in effect be one less Government Department with specific operational responsibilities. On the other hand, there will be new Ministries and Departments designed specifically to focus on areas of growing importance in the Australian community.

### Ministerial Changes

The swearing in will take place at Government House at 2.00 p.m. this afternoon. The Governor-General has authorised me to announce the following details ahead of the swearing:

## COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT

## Fourth Fraser Ministry

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|-----|---|--|
| *1  | Prime Minister  | The Rt Hon. Malcolm Fraser, CH, MP               |
| *2  | Deputy Prime Minister<br>and Minister for Trade<br>and Resources  | The Rt Hon. J.D. Anthony, CH, MP                 |
| *3  | Treasurer   | The Hon. John Howard, M.P.                       |
| *4  | Minister for Defence  | The Rt Hon Ian Sinclair, M.P.                    |
| *5  | Minister for National<br>Development and Energy<br>and Leader of the Government<br>in the Senate                          | Senator the Hon. Sir John Carrick,<br>KCMG       |
| *6  | Minister for Industry and<br>Commerce   | The Rt Hon Sir Phillip Lynch<br>KCMG, M.P.       |
| *7  | Minister for Foreign<br>Affairs   | The Hon. A.A. Street, M.P.                       |
| *8  | Minister for Primary<br>Industry  | The Hon. P.J. Nixon, M.P.                        |
| *9  | Vice-President of the<br>Executive Council and<br>Leader of the House   | The Hon. D.J. Killen, M.P.                       |
| *10 | Minister for Finance  | Senator the Hon. Dame Margaret<br>Guilfoyle, DBE |
| *11 | Attorney-General  | Senator the Hon. Peter Durack, Q.C.              |
| *12 | Minister for Social<br>Security   | Senator the Hon. F.M. Chaney                     |
| *13 | Minister for Aviation<br>and Minister Assisting<br>the Prime Minister in<br>Federal Affairs and<br>Public Service Matters | The Hon. Wal Fife, M.P.                          |
| *14 | Minister for Employment<br>and Industrial Relations   | The Hon. Ian Macphee, M.P.                       |
| *15 | Minister for Education  | Senator the Hon. Peter Baume                     |
| 16  | Minister for Transport<br>and Construction  | The Hon. Ralph J. Hunt, M.P.                     |
| 17  | Minister for Defence<br>Support and Minister<br>Assisting the Minister<br>for Defence                                     | The Hon. Ian Viner, M.P.                         |
| *   | Minister in the Cabinet   |  |

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| 18 | Minister for Science<br>and Technology  | The Hon. David Thomson, MC, MP |
| 19 | Minister for Administrative<br>Services   | The Hon. Kevin Newman, M.P.    |
| 20 | Minister for Communications<br>and Minister Assisting<br>the Attorney-General                                     | The Hon. N.A. Brown, QC, M.P.  |
| 21 | Minister for the Capital<br>Territory and Minister<br>Assisting the Minister for<br>Industry and Commerce         | The Hon. Michael Hodgman, M.P. |
| 22 | Minister for Veterans'<br>Affairs and Minister<br>Assisting the Treasurer   | Senator the Hon. Tony Messner  |
| 23 | Minister for Home Affairs<br>and Environment and<br>Minister Assisting the<br>Minister for Trade and<br>Resources | The Hon. D.T. McVeigh, M.P.    |
| 24 | Minister for Aboriginal<br>Affairs and Minister<br>Assisting the Minister<br>for Social Security                  | The Hon. Ian Wilson, M.P.      |
| 25 | Minister for Health and<br>Minister Assisting the<br>Minister for National<br>Development and Energy              | The Hon. J.J. Carlton, M.P.    |
| 26 | Minister for Immigration<br>and Ethnic Affairs  | The Hon. John Hodges, M.P.     |

Mr Alan Cadman, MP, will continue as Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister and Mr Bruce Lloyd, MP, will continue as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Primary Industry. Mr Michael Baume, MP, has been appointed as Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer.

DEPARTMENTAL RE-ORGANISATION

The following Departments will be abolished and their functions re-organised:

- . Business and Consumer Affairs;
- . Employment and Youth Affairs;
- . Housing and Construction;
- . Industrial Relations; and
- . Transport.

The new Departments to be created are:

- . Aviation;
- . Defence Support;
- . Employment and Industrial Relations;
- . Transport and Construction;
- . Vice-President of the Executive Council.

INDUSTRY. Employment, Industrial Relations and Youth Affairs

The Government's policies in relation to maintaining high levels of employment and effective industrial relations, and the close links between these two areas, require the Departments of Industrial Relations and Employment and Youth Affairs to be brought together again.

The Departments were split during the formative stages of the employment and training programmes. The basis for the effective operation and continued development of these programmes is now well established.

The Office of Youth Affairs will retain its identity and will receive continued priority within the new Departmental structure.

. Other Industrial Responsibilities

To give a greater focus to Government policies affecting industry, the customs and excise functions of the Department of Business and Consumer Affairs will be transferred to the Department of Industry and Commerce. As a consequence of this move, the other functions of the Department of Business and Consumer Affairs will be relocated and the Department abolished.

The corporate affairs, trade practices and consumer affairs functions will be transferred back to the Attorney-General's Department. The regulatory functions in this area rest largely with the National Companies and Securities Commission and the Trade Practices Commission. Because of the substantial legal content of these functions, they are appropriately placed within the Attorney-General's portfolio.

The Industries Assistance Commission and the work associated with protection policy previously located in the Department of Business and Consumer Affairs will be transferred to the Department of Administrative Services to continue the practice of having these functions administered by a Department independent of particular industry sectors.

DEFENCE

The new Defence Support Department is based on a recommendation from the Defence Review Committee. Because its terms of reference included Departmental Structures, I asked if a report concerning these aspects of its terms of reference could be brought forward. An interim report on the issue of departmental organisation has been presented by the Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr John Utz and whose other members are Sir Frederick Wheeler, General MacDonald and Mr Eric Neal.

The Review Committee concluded that there were disadvantages in the present large structure of the Defence Department. It recommended the creation of a second Department in the Defence area - a Department of Defence Support. I have decided to accept this recommendation. The interim report will be made public forthwith and tabled in the Parliament.

The Department of Defence Support will take over the defence production factories now under the Department of Industry and Commerce; the naval dockyards at Garden Island and Williamstown other than the fleet-based activities at Garden Island; administration of the major research and development laboratories of the Defence Science and Technology Organisation viz. the Defence Engineering Laboratory, the Aeronautical Research Laboratories, the Electronic Research Laboratories, the Materials Research Laboratories, and the Weapons Systems Research Laboratories; that part of Defence purchasing now located in the Department of Administrative Services; and the Defence Industry Development functions of the Department of Defence.

The grouping of defence support activities under a separate Minister and Department will enable close co-operation with scientific and industrial organisations who are now involved with the Defence Department. At the same time, defence support effort could be integrated more closely with private sector industrial capacity and move towards increased self-reliance in industrial support.

There will be a close relationship between the new Department and the Department of Defence. The Minister for Defence, Mr Sinclair, will retain central responsibility for formulating defence policy and co-ordinating defence expenditure. The Minister for Defence Support, Mr Viner, will be the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence. The Minister for Defence Support and the Secretary of his Department will be members of the Council of Defence and the Department of Defence Support will be represented at various levels on defence co-ordinating bodies. It is intended that there will continue to be an overall defence expenditure programme covering both Departments.

TRANSPORT

The functions of the Department of Transport will be divided between the two new Departments of Aviation and of Transport and Construction. The re-establishment of an Aviation Department recognises the importance of civil aviation to the economy and to the community at large. It is a distinct area which presents particular issues of its own and its importance warrants undivided ministerial attention.

The new Department of Transport and Construction will carry out functions relating to road, rail and sea transport and assume responsibility for the Commonwealth construction activities of the Department of Housing and Construction and that Department will be abolished.

HOUSING

The welfare housing activities of the Department of Housing and Construction will be transferred to the Department of Social Security. This will align housing, including the administration of the improved Home Deposit Assistance Scheme and welfare housing payments to the States, more clearly with the Government's overall welfare programme.

Relations with the building industry and housing policy generally will be the responsibility of the expanded Department of Industry and Commerce and take their place alongside other industry matters.

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Mr Killen will be the Vice-President of the Executive Council and Leader of the House of Representatives and will retain his position in the Cabinet. The new Department of the Vice-President of the Executive Council is a vehicle for the appointment of a senior Minister whose functions can be performed without involving heavy departmental responsibilities.

The practice of appointing Vice-Presidents in this way goes back to Federation. More than half of the Ministers who have held the office have held it without portfolio.

This practice was once embraced by successive governments, but doubts have been expressed in more recent times about certain legal aspects of appointments of Ministers without portfolio. In view of these doubts, a very small Department of the Vice-President of the Executive Council is being created. The Permanent Head of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet will be appointed as the new Department's head in addition to his existing responsibilities.