



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

WEDNESDAY, 23 JUNE 1982

ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO DRUG TRAFFICKING

The Prime Minister and the Premiers of New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland jointly announced today that the life of the Royal Commission into Drug Trafficking has been extended to 28 February 1983.

The Royal Commission, which is being conducted by Mr Justice Stewart was originally required to finalise its inquiry and report by 30 June 1982. A recent review of progress, however, indicated that further time would be necessary for the Commission to complete its inquiries and prepare its report and recommendations.

The Governor-General and the Governors of New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland have formally approved the extension.

The terms of reference of the inquiry require the Royal Commissioner to inquire into and report on possible drug trafficking and related activities of Terrence John Clark and his associates.

The Commonwealth has previously announced its intention to extend the terms of this inquiry to deal with allegations about Nugan Hand. This matter, including the question of timing, is currently the subject of consultation between the Commonwealth and State Governments.