



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

TUESDAY, 26 OCTOBER 1982

NORTHERN TERRITORY RECEIVES FULL MEMBERSHIP TO THE
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR INTER-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

The Advisory Council for Inter-Government Relations Act 1976 is to be amended to provide for the Northern Territory to be represented on the Council on the same basis as each of the six States.

The Advisory Council is an essential feature of the Federalism policy of the Commonwealth Government. The Council was established in 1976 with the object of improving inter-government co-operation. It receives references from the Premiers' Conference to keep under consideration and review issues involving inter-government co-operation and recommends ways and means for improving inter-government co-operation.

The inclusion of two Northern Territory representatives on the Advisory Council will add a new dimension to the Council: that of a Government in transition to Statehood; and of a government that is in a position to view afresh the structures and practices that have been established to underpin Australia's Federal system of government.

With the two new Northern Territory appointees, the Council will have 24 members representing Commonwealth, state, Northern Territory and local government and the community. The National Secretariat is located on Hobart.

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