

MEDIA RELEASE

WAGES PAUSE: MEETING WITH THE ACTU

(Statement by the Acting Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. J.D. Anthony, C.H., M.P.)

Representatives of the Government and the ACTU met today in Canberra to discuss aspects of the Wages Pause agreed to at the Special Premiers Conference in Canberra.

The ACTU was represented by the President, Mr Cliff Dolan, Senior Vice-President, Mr Charlie Fitzgibbon, Vice-President, Mr Simon Crean, Advocate, Ms Jan Marsh, and Assistant Secretaries Mr Bill Kelty, Mr Bill Richardson and Mr Bob Gradwell.

With me representing the Government were the Treasurer, Mr Howard; the Defence Minister, Mr Sinclair; the Minister for National Development and Energy and Leader of the Government in the Senate, Senator Carrick; the Minister for Finance, Senator Guilfoyle; the Minister for Industry and Commerce, Mr Peacock; the Minister for Social Security, Senator Chaney; and the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Mr Macphee.

Our talks, which lasted for almost two hours, were marked by a friendly and constructive atmosphere and a shared concern about the current employment situation.

The ACTU sought clarification of a number of details of the Wages Pause and related aspects of the Government's economic policies. There was frank and detailed discussion about all of the matters raised.

Although no commitments were made, the Government is confident that the ACTU will be taking a constructive approach to the Wages Pause, and I personally welcome the opportunity today's meeting provided to fully inform the ACTU on the measures agreed to by the Commonwealth and the Premiers.

Today's talks were also a valuable lead-up to tomorrow's meeting of the National Labour Consultative Council.

Canberra,
9 December 1982