



# PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

THURSDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 1983

## ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO DRUG TRAFFICKING

The Prime Minister announced today that, with the agreement of the Premiers of NSW and Queensland, the life of the Royal Commission into Drug Trafficking has been extended to 28 March 1983.

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

The Royal Commission, which is being conducted by Mr Justice Stewart, was previously required to finalise its inquiry and report by 28 February 1983.

The Commonwealth has been discussing with the States concerned possible terms of reference for an extension of the Royal Commission to undertake an inquiry into Nugan Hand. It has recently been suggested by Sir Edward Williams, Chairman-designate of the National Crimes Commission, that the Crimes Commission might undertake the Nugan Hand inquiry.

The handling of the Nugan Hand inquiry is a matter for the incoming Commonwealth Government to settle with the States concerned. Meanwhile, it has been agreed to extend the terms of Mr Justice Stewart's Commission.

Although Mr Justice Stewart also holds a Commission from Victoria, the Victorian Government does not propose to extend it beyond 28 February 1983. Queensland does not intend to participate in any Nugan Hand reference to the Royal Commission.