



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

Tuesday, 29 March, 1983

The Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, and the Premier of New South Wales, Mr Wran, today announced the extension of the terms of reference of the Royal Commission, headed by Mr Justice Stewart, to allow him to inquire into certain activities of the Nugan Hand Group.

Under terms of reference issued by both the Commonwealth and the New South Wales Governments, the Royal Commissioner will be able to inquire whether the Nugan Hand Group engaged in activities involving contravention of laws of the Commonwealth or laws of New South Wales.

In particular, Mr Justice Stewart will be able to inquire whether the Nugan Hand Group contravened laws relating to the importation, exportation or possession of drugs or armaments, breached exchange control regulations, or contravened laws relating to local government authorities.

The Commissioner will also be able to inquire whether the Nugan Hand Group or any other body interfered with the investigations of any Australian law enforcement body into the activities of the Nugan Hand Group.

Mr Wran and Mr Hawke said the inquiry provided the best opportunity to examine allegations concerning the activities of the Nugan Hand Group.

Mr Justice Stewart is to report on his inquiry before 31st December, 1983.