



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

2 March 1984

On behalf of the Minister for Social Security, Senator Grimes, and the Minister for Veterans Affairs, Senator Gietzelt, I am pleased to announce the membership of the panel of community representatives to advise the Government on how best to achieve its objective of ensuring that expenditure on pensions is directed to those most in need.

The Chairman of the Panel will be Professor Fred Gruen, Head of the Economics Department, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University.

The other members of the Panel are:

Mark Johnson	Managing Director, Australian Bank Limited
Sir William Keys, OBE, MC	National President, The Returned Services League of Australia
Bruce McKenzie	President, Australian Council of Social Service
Jim Priest	National Secretary, Australian Pensioners' Federation
Philippa Smith	Chairperson, National Advisory Council on Social Welfare; Consultant to the NSW Department of Health
Dr. George Smolicz	Reader in Education, Adelaide University; Commissioner South Australian Ethnic Affairs Commission
Joyce Thurgood	National President, Association of Civilian Widows

A representative of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, to be named shortly.

Consultant to the Panel: Bruce Paul, Manager of Actuarial Division, AMP

The terms of reference for the review are attached.

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We have told the Chairman of the Panel, Professor Gruen, that we wish to consider their recommendations as soon as possible.

The Government looks forward to being able to give effect through legislation to the overwhelming community support for the principle that expenditure on pensions should be directed to those most in need, and not be dissipated on those who do not need such assistance.

As Federal Cabinet noted in its decision on February 23, 1984 it is important that community confusion and uncertainty about who would be adversely affected by the assets test in the proposed legislation, should be replaced by wider understanding and confidence that the legislation most appropriately reflects the principle in the fairest and most equitable manner.