



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

10 April 1986

Mr Ian Castles, formerly Secretary Department of Finance, has been appointed Australian Statistician.

As Australia's major statistical authority, the Australian Bureau of Statistics plays a vital role in providing the information needed to provide a firm basis for decision-making and for community understanding of economic and social issues. The Government is committed to its continuing development as an objective statistical organisation maintaining the highest professional standards, thereby ensuring the availability of adequate information to support decision-making in the public and private sectors and to promote a generally well-informed society.

It is the Government's intention that the Australian Bureau of Statistics should establish closer links with the many centres of economic and social research within Government and in the universities which make extensive use of the Bureau's product in carrying out their functions.

Mr Castles has had an extensive involvement in the formulation of advice to government on economic and social policies. Before his appointment as Secretary, Department of Finance in 1979 he worked as Chairman of the Income Security Review and as a Deputy Secretary and then Under Secretary in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Dr M S Keating has been appointed as Secretary to the Department of Finance. Dr Keating was formerly Secretary to the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations. Since 11 February 1986 Dr Keating has been the Secretary designate to the Department of Finance.

These appointments take effect today.