



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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An Office of Multicultural Affairs is to be established within my portfolio, reporting to me and to Mr Hurford who, in addition to his present responsibilities, is to be Minister assisting me in Multicultural Affairs.

The responsibilities of the Office will embrace both ethnic and multicultural affairs.

It will be basically an advisory and research body, with the administration of established programs of a specific nature remaining where they are now.

The general research and advisory functions in the ethnic affairs field which are presently in Mr Hurford's portfolio will be included in the new Office.

Consistent with the other Offices in my portfolio, the new Office will not have a statutory basis.

There will be an Advisory Council established, serviced by the Office, to report to me and to Mr Hurford as Minister Assisting.

While the Office will not be responsible for programs of a specific nature, it will be responsible for the development and management of the grants-in-aid program and for some information activity and sponsorship of research.

A structure for the Office, and other details associated with its establishment, are expected to be settled in the course of the next two or three weeks.

Compared with previous arrangements, this new Office, and its associated Advisory Council, will be able to make a more active and effective input into the development of multicultural policies and programs. They will be well placed to promote better co-ordination and to bring to notice ethnic and multicultural interests wherever appropriate in the normal policy development and decision-making processes of the Government.