



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

9 APRIL 1991

The final report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody is to be presented by 26 April 1991. The report will not be available publicly until it has been tabled in Federal Parliament, probably in early May.

Reports on individual deaths have been made public as they have been presented and tabled. By the end of March, 78 reports had been tabled and the remaining 21 are expected to become publicly available in April. The final report's recommendations will relate to the circumstances of individual deaths, as well as canvassing the underlying social, economic, and cultural issues contributing to those deaths.

In addition to their immediate importance to the families of people whose deaths have been investigated, the Royal Commission's findings are expected to be of international interest as well as of national significance.

I have asked the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon. Robert Tickner MP, to assume responsibility for coordination of the Commonwealth Government consideration of the final report.

I have written to all Premiers and Chief Ministers to suggest that the Commonwealth, the States and the Territories continue to work together to develop a joint strategy of response to the final report's findings and recommendations. I have asked the Premiers and Chief Ministers to set in train a liaison process with Mr Tickner.