



PRIME MINISTER

72/92

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP AND THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, THE HON KIM BEAZLEY, MP.

A new national vocational education and training system will be established following an historic agreement reached between the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments today.

The Prime Minister, Mr Keating, said the new system would give vocational education in Australia a truly national focus.

It will centre on a Council of Ministers and a new body - the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA).

The Commonwealth and all States and Territories will channel their funding for training through ANTA, creating a genuinely national system.

The system will provide assured funding arrangements, a consistent national approach to training, close involvement of industry, and a high quality network of training providers.

There will be more opportunities for young people, and higher quality training for industry.

On the basis of the agreement reached today, the Commonwealth will provide, over the next three years, the additional \$720 million for vocational education outlined in the One Nation statement in February.

The States have agreed to at least maintain their current level of effort for vocational education and training.

The five member board of ANTA will be made up of acknowledged independent experts, appointed by the Ministerial Council. ANTA will be a Commonwealth statutory authority.

Its key functions will include: formulation of a national strategic plan; provision of advice to the Ministerial Council on funding levels and distribution; and direct planning involvement with State agencies to ensure efficient and high quality service.

A document providing details of the new arrangements is being released with this statement.

CANBERRA
21 JULY 1992