



PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P.J. KEATING MP

The swearing in of the second Keating Ministry will take place at 10.30 am today, Wednesday 24 March. I am pleased to announce the composition of the ministry which I will be recommending to the Governor-General.

The complete list of the ministry, with details of representation of ministers in the other chamber, is attached.

There will continue to be thirty ministers, with a Cabinet of nineteen and ten parliamentary secretaries.

As well as bringing new figures into the Cabinet and the Ministry, I have taken the opportunity to make several changes in departmental arrangements to reflect emerging priorities. But the basic structures – themselves a Labor reform – have served well and will remain.

As before the election, the Cabinet includes a number of ministers with long experience in government. I am pleased to announce that Senator Graham Richardson will once again bring his considerable abilities to the Cabinet. The talented Cabinet team has also been augmented by the elevation to Cabinet of Peter Baldwin, a minister of outstanding ability who will be able, as a Cabinet member, to build on his earlier experience as a minister.

I also welcome to the Cabinet three new members who have not previously held ministerial posts. They are Bob McMullan, Laurie Brereton and Michael Lee who I am confident will be able to make major contributions to the work of the government in the portfolios of Arts and Administrative Services, Industrial Relations, Tourism and Resources. It is also the intention to appoint Michael Lavarch as Attorney-General after the poll for the seat of Dickson.

In addition, there will be six new ministers not in the Cabinet. They are Frank Walker, who as Special Minister of State in my portfolio will have particular responsibility for facilitation of major development projects: George Gear; Chris Schacht; John Faulkner; Rosemary Crowley and Duncan Kerr. The infusion of new talent they represent will help ensure that the government continues to be relevant and responsive to the changing conditions and circumstances of the 1990s. Mr Kerr will act as Attorney-General pending Mr Lavarch's appointment.

Of the Parliamentary Secretaries, six are new to the position. The institution of Parliamentary Secretary provides a very inexpensive means not only of giving talented individuals executive experience but providing Ministers with needed support.

I wish to draw attention to the important modifications in ministerial arrangements.

As Prime Minister I am already significantly involved, through my department and Ministers assisting me, in the major areas of social and cultural change in Australia represented by the Office of the Status of Women, the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Aboriginal Reconciliation Unit. The 1990s will see us carry further the shift towards a more diverse, outward looking and just society and I intend to enhance the role of the Prime Ministership in this.

Accordingly there will be an Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the Minister and ATSIC will be located in my portfolio. The Office will not be large, but have a policy advising capability and will house the Aboriginal Reconciliation Unit. The Office will also be able to provide advice and services to the minister when it would be inappropriate for the only source of advice to be ATSIC. For example where Aboriginal groups engage in litigation against the Commonwealth there may be a need for instructions to the Commonwealth's legal advisers of a kind which ATSIC would regard as inconsistent with its role.

I emphasise, however, that there is no intention in establishing the Office to undermine the primary role of ATSIC as adviser to the government on Aboriginal matters. Excellent working relationships have been established between the portfolio and ATSIC on major issues and this will continue. The Office will complement ATSIC and its creation highlights the importance the Government attaches to addressing issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and, in particular, to pressing ahead effectively with the reconciliation process.

Some particular programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will remain with the specialised Departments, for example DEET in the area of education. But Mr Tickner, as Minister with overall responsibility in the field, will take a strong and continuing interest in all the Government's activities in Aboriginal affairs.

Senator Evans, who will be the Minister for Foreign Affairs, will be joined in the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio by a second Cabinet minister, Senator Cook, who takes on the vital responsibility of pursuing our overseas trade interests. His ability to concentrate effort upon this will be enhanced by the presence in the portfolio of a third Minister, Gordon Bilney, who will take over development assistance activities, formerly with the Trade Minister.

Mr Howe, the Deputy Prime Minister, will be Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Services. We are concerned to improve the quality of life in our cities and particularly people's access to services through improvements in service delivery and planning. Mr Howe will have particular responsibility for initiatives in this area, along with continuing responsibility for housing matters, including the better cities program, augmented by local government which has been in the immigration portfolio, and locational disadvantage studies which have been in the Department of the Prime Minister

and Cabinet. Mr Howe's portfolio will also take responsibility for the National Capital Planning Authority.

I expect health issues to have an even higher focus during the next parliamentary term. We need to examine service delivery issues to improve the efficiency with which the medical system meets customer needs. We need also to look at the relationship between the public and private health systems to ensure we are using both optimally, and to make the most of the linkage between the two. Reflecting this and especially the Medicare arrangements, there will be another Cabinet minister in the Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Services portfolio. This is Senator Richardson, who becomes Minister for Health.

Reflecting this government's commitment to families, there will also be a Minister for Family Services in the Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Services portfolio, which will be further enhanced by the addition of the Child Protection Council and the International Year of the Family secretariat, from the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio. Rosemary Crowley, the Minister for Family Services, will also be Minister assisting me for the Status of Women.

As promised before the election, there will be a ministry with special responsibility for regional development. The Department of Industry, Technology and Regional Development, under Mr Griffiths, will co-ordinate national programs to bring vigorous new industries to declining regions and to equip people with the skills needed for these new industries. The Office of Northern Development will move from my department to the Department of Industry, Technology and Regional Development and Mr Ted Lindsay, the Parliamentary Secretary in that portfolio, will have special responsibility for Northern Development issues.

There has been significant structural change in many industries in recent years and, increasingly, this is being linked to broader competition policy issues. The current Hilmer Review into competition policy should reinforce these linkages. In this climate, I have decided to move responsibilities for competition policy into the Treasury, so that it may complement further the government's continuing microeconomic reform agenda. Consumer interests will, however, continue to be handled by the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Ms McHugh, in the Attorney-General's portfolio.

I have also decided to streamline the Cabinet committee system and have committees rather than full Cabinet handle the initial consideration of Cabinet matters.

This approach will leave the Cabinet free to concentrate on broader strategic issues rather than some of the more detailed deliberations which can take considerable Cabinet time. Committee decisions will continue to be submitted to Cabinet for endorsement and Cabinet will be expected to consider the major policy issues, but without getting bogged down in detail which can be settled in the Committee discussions.

The new Cabinet structure will consist of:-

Expenditure Review Committee
Structural Adjustment Committee

Social Policy Committee
 Security Committee
 General Policy Committee
 Parliamentary Business committee

A General Policy Committee has been added to the structure to pick up the issues not falling within the terms of reference of the other policy committees and the Sustainable Development Committee has been abolished as its principal task of developing the Ecologically Sustainable Development and Greenhouse strategies has been completed. New administrative arrangements were put in place in December 1992 to handle the authorisation of draft legislation and there is, therefore, no longer a need for a Legislation Committee.

Details of the membership of committees will be released separately.

Also attached is a list of departmental secretaries.

The government is well served by the public service and regards stability at the top as desirable. We do, however, have a policy of rotating secretaries after several years in their positions and have taken the opportunity of the appointment of a new ministry to effect a small number of changes.

Mr Tony Cole, the Secretary to the Treasury, will become Secretary to the Department of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Services. Mr Ted Evans, a former Deputy Secretary in the Treasury, moves from his current post at the International Monetary Fund to become Secretary to the Treasury. Mr Derek Volker, Secretary to the Department of Social Security, moves to Employment, Education and Training to be replaced by Mr Tony Blunn from the Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories. Mr Stuart Hamilton, from Health, Housing and Community Services will become Secretary to the Department of Environment, Sport and Territories.

Dr Geoff Miller, currently Secretary to the Department of Primary Industries and Energy, is a candidate for the position of Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation. In recognition of his need to spend a good deal of his time in pursuit of this objective, and to enhance his prospects, Dr Miller has asked to be relieved of the full time burden of his present duties. The government is strongly supportive of Dr Miller's candidacy and accordingly we have decided to appoint him Associate Secretary for Agriculture in the Department of Primary Industries and Energy. He will be succeeded as Secretary by Mr Greg Taylor, from Employment, Education and Training. He will, however, remain Secretary to the Department of Tourism.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank those Secretaries who are moving for their contributions to the government and the nation over the last few years. I am confident they will continue to maintain the quality of public administration.

CANBERRA
 24 March 1993

SECOND KEATING MINISTRY

TITLE	MINISTER	Representative in other Chamber
Prime Minister	The Hon P J Keating, MP	Senator Evans
Special Minister of State	The Hon Frank Walker, QC, MP (Vice-President of the Executive Council)	Senator Evans
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	The Hon Robert Tickner, MP	Senator Collins
Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Services	The Hon Brian Howe, MP (Deputy Prime Minister)	Senator Richardson
Minister for Health	Senator the Hon Graham Richardson	Mr Howe
Minister for Family Services	Senator the Hon Rosemary Crowley	Mr Howe
<i>Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women</i>	Senator the Hon John Faulkner (Manager of Government Business in the Senate)	Mr Howe
Minister for Veterans' Affairs	<i>The Hon Andrew Theophanous, MP</i>	
<i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>		
Minister for Foreign Affairs	Senator the Hon Gareth Evans, QC (Leader of the Government in the Senate)	Mr Bilney
Minister for Trade	Senator the Hon Peter Cook	Mr Bilney
Minister for Development Co-operation and Pacific Island Affairs	The Hon Gordon Bilney, MP	Senator Evans
Minister for Defence	Senator the Hon Robert Ray (Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate)	Mr Bilney
Minister for Defence Science and Personnel	Senator the Hon John Faulkner	Senator Ray
<i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>	<i>The Hon Gary Punch, MP</i>	
Treasurer	The Hon J S Dawkins, MP	Senator McMullan
Assistant Treasurer	The Hon George Gear, MP	Senator McMullan
<i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>	<i>The Hon Gary Johns, MP</i>	
Minister for Finance	The Hon Ralph Willis, MP	Senator McMullan
Minister for Employment, Education and Training	The Hon Kim C Beazley, MP (Leader of the House)	Senator Ray
Minister for Schools, Vocational Education and Training	The Hon Ross Free, MP	Senator Ray
<i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>	<i>The Hon Warren Snowdon, MP</i>	
Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories	The Hon Ros Kelly, MP	Senator Ray
Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs	Senator the Hon Nick Bolkus	Mr Brereton
<i>Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Multicultural Affairs</i>		
Minister for Primary Industries and Energy	The Hon Simon Crean, MP	Senator Cook
Minister for Resources	The Hon Michael Lee, MP	Senator Cook
<i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>	<i>Senator the Hon Nick Sherry</i>	
Minister for Industry, Technology and Regional Development	The Hon Alan Griffiths, MP	Senator Schacht
Minister for Science and Small Business	Senator the Hon Chris Schacht	Mr Griffiths
<i>Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Science</i>	<i>The Hon Ted Lindsay, MP</i>	
<i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>		
Minister for Transport and Communications	Senator the Hon Bob Collins	Mr Beddall
Minister for Communications	The Hon David Beddall, MP	Senator Collins
<i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>	<i>The Hon Neil O'Keefe, MP</i>	
Minister for Social Security	The Hon Peter Baldwin, MP	Senator Richardson
<i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>	<i>The Hon Con Sciacca, MP</i>	
Minister for the Arts and Administrative Services	Senator the Hon Bob McMullan	Mr Willis
<i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>	<i>The Hon Janice Crosio, MBE, MP</i>	
Minister for Industrial Relations	The Hon Laurie Brereton, MP	Senator McMullan
<i>Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Public Service Matters</i>		
Attorney-General	The Hon Duncan Kerr, MP (Acting)*	Senator Bolkus
Minister for Consumer Affairs	The Hon Jeannette McHugh, MP	Senator Bolkus
Minister for Justice	The Hon Duncan Kerr, MP	Senator Bolkus
<i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>	<i>The Hon Peter Duncan, MP</i>	
Minister for Tourism	The Hon Michael Lee, MP	Senator Schacht

Each box represents a portfolio. Cabinet Ministers are shown in bold type. As a general rule, there is one Department in each portfolio. Except for the Department of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Services and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the title of each Department reflects that of the Portfolio Minister. There is also a Department of Veterans' Affairs in the Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Services Portfolio.

*Mr Lavarch will be appointed Attorney-General, depending on the result of the election for the seat of Dickson.

SECRETARIES TO DEPARTMENTS

Department	Secretary
Arts and Administrative Services	Mr N J Tanzer
Attorney-General's	Mr A D Rose
Defence	Mr A J Ayers, AC
Employment, Education and Training	Mr D Volker, AO
Environment, Sport and Territories	Mr S A Hamilton
Finance	Mr S T Sedgwick
Foreign Affairs and Trade	Dr P S Wilenski, AO
Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Services	Mr A S Cole
Immigration and Ethnic Affairs	Mr C Conybeare
Industrial Relations	Mr M J Costello
Industry, Technology and Regional Development	Mr N R Stevens
Primary Industries and Energy	Mr G F Taylor
Prime Minister and Cabinet	Dr M S Keating, AO
Social Security	Mr A S Blunn, AO
Tourism	Dr G L Miller
Transport and Communications	Mr G C Evans
Treasury	Mr E A Evans
Veterans' Affairs	Mr L B Woodward