



PRIME MINISTER

32/94

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP APPOINTMENT OF DEPARTMENTAL SECRETARIES

The government has decided on some changes to departmental secretary arrangements and I will shortly be recommending these to the Administrator of the Commonwealth in Council, to take effect from Tuesday 26 April.

The Secretary to the new Department of Housing and Regional Development will be Mr Andrew Podger, currently Secretary to the Department of Administrative Services. Mr Tony Cole, who has been acting as Secretary to both the Department of Housing and Regional Development and the Department of Human Services and Health, will remain as Secretary to the Department of Human Services and Health.

The Secretary to the Department of Administrative Services will be Mr John Mellors, currently Executive General Manager, Corporate in that Department. Mr Mellors was Director-General of the Victorian Department of Planning and Urban Growth from 1988-1990 and before that held senior positions in several Departments in the Australian Public Service, including Administrative Services and Finance.

The Secretary to the Department of Veterans' Affairs will be Dr Allan Hawke, currently Deputy Secretary in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Dr Hawke was previously Principal Adviser in my office and Deputy Secretary in the Department of Defence. The vacancy in the Department of Veterans' Affairs occurs because of the government's decision to recommend the appointment of Mr Lionel Woodward as Comptroller-General of Customs, announced separately today by the Minister for Small Business, Customs and Construction.

CANBERRA
20 APRIL 1994