



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

PRISONER VOTING

The Acting Prime Minister, Mr Kim Beazley, today announced that the Government would not proceed with legislation to extend voting to all prisoners.

Mr Beazley indicated he had made his decision after discussion with his colleague the Minister for Administrative Services, Frank Walker.

Currently, prisoners who have committed offences which attract prison sentences of five years or less are entitled to vote. The recommendation to extend voting rights to all prisoners was put forward by the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters in its report on the 1993 Federal Election.

The recommendation was founded, in part, on advice from the Australian Electoral Commission that the current system created administrative difficulties.

Mr Beazley said that while the Government had decided not to extend voting rights to all prisoners, it would look at ways of streamlining current arrangements.

PERTH
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