1984

Diary of Social Legislation and Policy

National Institute of Economic and Industry Research
Australian Institute of Family Studies
Social Welfare Research Centre
1984

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<tr>
<td>ACTU</td>
<td>Australian Council of Trade Unions</td>
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<tr>
<td>AID</td>
<td>Artificial Insemination by Donor</td>
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<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</td>
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<td>AIMA</td>
<td>Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs</td>
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<td>AMA</td>
<td>Australian Medical Association</td>
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<td>AMEP</td>
<td>Adult Migrant Education Program</td>
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<td>ASLPR</td>
<td>Australian Second Language Proficiency Ratings</td>
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<td>AWSS</td>
<td>Adult Wage Subsidy Scheme</td>
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<td>BLMR</td>
<td>Bureau of Labour Market Research</td>
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<td>CEP</td>
<td>Community Employment Program</td>
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<td>Community Health Program</td>
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<td>CPI</td>
<td>Consumer Price Index</td>
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<td>CRAFT</td>
<td>Commonwealth Rebate for Apprenticeship Full-Time Training</td>
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<td>DEIR</td>
<td>Department of Employment and Industrial Relations</td>
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<td>ET</td>
<td>Embryo Transfer</td>
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<tr>
<td>HACC</td>
<td>Home and Community Care Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>IVF</td>
<td>In Vitro Fertilization</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEAT</td>
<td>National Employment and Training System</td>
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<tr>
<td>NH&amp;MRC</td>
<td>National Health and Medical Research Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSHC</td>
<td>Outside School Hours Care</td>
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<td>OSS</td>
<td>Occupational Shares System</td>
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<td>SYETP</td>
<td>Special Youth Employment Training Program</td>
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<td>WESP</td>
<td>Women’s Emergency Services Program</td>
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<td>WPP</td>
<td>Wage Pause Program</td>
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<td>WREIP</td>
<td>Women’s Research and Employment Initiatives Program</td>
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<td>YASP</td>
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Introduction

This *Diary* summarises the legislative and administrative changes made in the social policy field during 1984 by the Commonwealth government and by some of the State governments. It provides a ready reference for research workers, and can also be used as a succinct and factual account of policy during the year.

The *Diary* follows the format of the 'diaries' prepared by Helen Ferber and published in R. B. Scotton and Helen Ferber (eds), *Public Expenditures and Social Policy in Australia* (2 volumes, Melbourne, Longman Cheshire, 1978 and 1980). These 'diaries' covered the years 1972 to 1978. The first *Diary* in the present series covered events for the calendar year 1980, with the events of each year since then being covered by an annual *Diary*, copies of which are available from the sponsoring Institutes and Centre. Events for the calendar year 1979 were recorded in supplements to the first three issues of the present series.

In addition to Commonwealth legislation and events, this *Diary* attempts to cover the main policy changes at State level in the fields of social security and welfare. It has not, however, proved possible to obtain complete coverage for all fields and all States, and it is unlikely that State policy will be included in future issues.

This *Diary* covers the main areas of social policy apart from education (which will be covered from 1985). However, it makes no mention of general economic policy or political events. For these the reader is referred to the 'Diary of Recent Economic Events and Policy Statements' included in each issue of the *Australian Economic Review*, to the Diary of Political Events in each issue of *Australian Quarterly*, and to the 'Broadcasting Chronology' included in *Media Information Australia*. For a longer view of changes in the social security field the reader is referred to *Development in Social Security, A Compendium of Legislative Changes Since 1908* (Department of Social Security, Development Division Research Paper No. 20, Canberra, 1983). Readers who wish to verify when Bills were introduced into Parliament, when Statutory Rules notified, Acts assented to, and when commencement of Acts by Proclamation occurred should consult the *Monthly Legislation Summary* issued by the Library of the Attorney-General's Department, Canberra.

This issue was edited by Ian Manning and Kiera O'Neill of the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research, and by Mari Davis of the Australian Institute of Family Studies. Individual contributions by members of the two Institutes and financial support from the Social Welfare Research Centre are gratefully acknowledged. Assistance was also received from the various government departments whose policies are covered in the *Diary*, and this is again acknowledged with thanks.

Peter Brain
National Institute of Economic and Industry Research

Don Edgar
Australian Institute of Family Studies

Peter Saunders
Social Welfare Research Centre
21 August 1984: It was announced in the Budget that the rate of personal care subsidy to hostels for aged or disabled residents would be increased from $40 to $44 a week from 17 January 1985. The rate of hostel care subsidy would then rise from $10 to $11 a week.

21 October 1984: Grants totalling more than $6.5 million to provide new nursing homes and day care centres for aged or disabled people were announced by the Minister for Social Security.

30 October 1984: The Minister for Social Security announced grants of $3 million to voluntary and welfare organisations caring for aged or disabled people, to provide for architectural upgrading of accommodation facilities to meet current fire safety and health requirements, construction standards. Further upgrading grants would be announced progressively.

National Advisory Councils on Social Welfare

24 January 1985: The Minister for Social Security announced a new National Advisory Council on Social Welfare to advise the Minister on current issues in social welfare. The Council is to consist of ten members appointed for two-year terms and would be chaired by Ms. Philippa Smith, a welfare economist. The new Council would replace the National Consultative Council on Social Security. Its terms of reference would include the assessment and review of social welfare priorities and the identification of gaps and deficiencies in social welfare programs. The Minister said he had also reviewed the membership and operation of the State and Territory Consultative Committees on Social Welfare, which advise the Minister and the Director-General of the Department of Social Security through the State Director on the administration of Commonwealth Government social security and welfare programs. New committees had been established, each with eight members including a nominee of the State or Territory Welfare Minister and the Director of the State Council of Social Service.

Inquiry into Social Security Conspiracy Cases

31 January 1984: The Minister for Social Security and the Attorney-General approved the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry, under Dame Roma Mitchell, to advise the Government on appropriate compensation to be paid to defendants in the Social Security Conspiracy Case. The Commission of Inquiry would have the powers and protections of a Royal Commission, including protection from defamation for the Commissioner,
her staff and witnesses, but it would not be a full-scale Royal Commission and the commissioner would not determine questions of fault.

26 March 1984: The Minister for Social Security announced that, while the Commission of Inquiry was limited to persons who had been defendants in court proceedings, the Government was prepared to consider any claim for compensation from any other person whose pension or benefit was suspended or cancelled during the events of 1978.

Children's Services Program

1 February 1984: The Minister for Social Security announced a new range of initiatives under the Children's Services Program aimed at promoting development of work-related day care facilities. The Commonwealth would provide operational and fee relief support, while employers and other agencies would be responsible for capital expenses. Services would be managed by employee and user groups and would provide a proportion of care places to families from the general community.

6 April 1984: The Minister for Social Security and State Ministers attending the Fifteenth Annual Conference of Social Welfare Ministers in Perth announced agreement to co-operate to provide new and expanded child care facilities in high need areas. The Commonwealth would provide $30 million in 1984-85 for new and expanded services, an increase of $20 million over 1983-84. The States through their public works programs would develop standard building plans and construction methods to facilitate approval and licensing.

8 April 1984: Joint Commonwealth/State funding for new services for children were announced in South Australia and Western Australia. Further funding to establish new centres and services under new Commonwealth/State agreements was announced for the other states and territories during the year.

18 May 1984: The Minister for Social Security announced substantial changes to Commonwealth funded day-care services for children, to be operative from 1 July 1984.

1 July 1984: Under a new system of fee relief the income limit for maximum relief would increase from $225 to $285 a week for families with two children, linking it with limits applicable to supporting parents. This limit would be automatically indexed with any future adjustment to supporting parents' benefit. Operating subsidies for Family Day Care Schemes would also rise from $10 to $12 a week for each full-time place, with an extra $3 a week per child for schemes with a high proportion of part-time placements. In addition, the guaranteed minimum level of support would be increased from $18 200 for one year to $30 000 per annum for two years.

21 August 1984: The Budget allocation for children's services was $124.7 million, a rise of $44.4 million including the additional $30 million announced in May 1984.

11 September 1984: The Minister for Social Security announced an increase in funding of $1.58 million, or nearly 33 per cent, to improve existing services for vacation care and the outside school hours care program (OSHG).

27 September 1984: A research report on the problems experienced by child refugees without parents in Australia was launched in Sydney by the Minister for Social Security. The report, Surviving Without Parents - Indochinese Minors in New South Wales was prepared by Careforce, the welfare agency of the Sydney Anglican Home Mission.

Senior Citizens' Centres

12 February 1984: The Minister for Social Security announced a forward commitment by the Government of $16 million over three years, with $7 million available in 1984-85, for provision of senior citizens' centres under the State Grants (Home Care) Act. The states would be asked to recommend projects on the basis of demonstrated need particularly in areas where no facilities exist.

4 October 1984: Grants totalling nearly $870 000 were announced by the Minister for Social Security and the South Australian Minister for Community Welfare for senior citizens' centre projects in South Australia under the States Grants (Home Care) Act. Similar announcements followed for Queensland and Western Australia (14 October 1984); New South Wales (17 October 1984) and Victoria (30 October 1984).

Women's Emergency Services

27 February 1984: The Minister for Social Security announced that the Government had decided to waive the dollar-for-dollar matching requirement for the Women's Emergency Services Program (WESP). An allocation of $4 million had been made in July 1983 to enable the establishment of the national program to provide assistance to women's refuges. The States and the Northern Territory would now be asked to submit proposals for the WESP funds allocated, without being required to match the allocation.

3 April 1984: Approval was announced for the funding of projects under the national Women's Emergency Services Program in the Northern Territory, totalling $64 000. Similar announcements were made for the ACT (11 April 1984); Western Australia, (13 April and 29 May 1984); South Australia (13 April and 11 May 1984); New South Wales (13 April 1984), and for Victoria (19 April 1984).

21 August 1984: Base level funding, subject to negotiations with the States and the Northern
Territory, of $7.83 million was provided in the Commonwealth budget for the Women’s Emergency Services Program.

2 October 1984: The Minister for Social Security announced increased funding for women’s refuges throughout Australia to bring the salaries of child care workers in line with workers employed under the Women’s Emergency Services Program. The salary increase, as well as approval for child care programs in four new refuges, would add $190 000 to the child care component in funding women’s refuges.

Benefits Income Test

1 March 1984: Changes in the free income allowance for social security beneficiaries, foreshadowed in the Budget, took effect. Those on unemployment benefits could earn $20 per week without losing any part of their benefits; between $20 and $70 they would lose 50 cents for every $1 additional income, and over $70 they would lose $1 for every $1 of other income. Upper limits for eligibility for health care cards and family income supplement were also raised, and allowances for children of unemployment and sickness beneficiaries were paid tax free from this date.

Rates of Pensions and Benefits

5 March 1984: The Minister for Social Security announced that pensions and adult benefits would increase by 4.1 per cent in May 1984 under the automatic indexation provisions of the Social Security Act. The standard rate of pension would rise by $3.50 to $89.40 a week and the married couple rate would rise by $5.90 to $149.10 a week, reflecting the movement in the Consumer Price Index for the six months to December 1983. Unemployment benefit for single persons over 18 with no children would rise by $4 a week to $78.60 a week, reflecting both the indexation rise and a further increase of $2 a week as a step to increasing the rate to the standard rate of pension. New rates for pensions and supporting parents’ benefits would operate from 3 May; unemployment, sickness and special benefits would be paid at the new rate from the first payday on or after 1 May, and increased income limits for health care cards, family income supplement and pensioner fringe benefits would apply from 1 May 1984.

21 August 1984: It was announced in the Budget that, as a result of the fall in the CPI in the six months to June 1984, there would be no indexation-adjustment to pensions and benefits in November 1984. However, basic rates of pension or benefits would be increased from 1 November 1984 by $2.50 a week for a single person and $2.10 a week for each married person. Unemployment benefits for single adults without dependents would also rise by $2.50 in November, and by a further $2 from 1 May 1985 (as well as the normal CPI increase). The rate of unemployment and sickness benefit for those single, under eighteen and without dependents would increase by $5 to $50 a week from 1 November for those who have been in continuous receipt of payment for six months or more. The rate of unemployment and sickness benefits for single people under eighteen who have dependents would increase to the standard rate of pension. Also from 1 November, supplementary assistance would increase from $10 to $15 a week; family income supplement by $2 to $14 a week, and the mother’s/guardian’s allowance by $2 to $10 a week. Income limits for family income supplement would be increased to bring them in line with those applied to health care cards.

Handicapped Persons Welfare Programs

8 March 1984: The Minister for Social Security reported that Federal Cabinet had approved a new system of funding capital projects under the Handicapped Persons Welfare Program: this would enable him to announce advance offers of grants to eligible organisations up to twelve months ahead of funds being available in the Budget. In 1984-85, a total of $16 million would be available under the Handicapped Persons Assistance Act, $9 million being allocated to new projects. High priority would be given to projects enabling disabled persons to participate as independently as possible in the community.

13 April 1984: Grants totalling $8 million for 100 projects assisting the handicapped in all states were announced by the Minister for Social Security. Of the projects funded, 59 were for residential programs. Activity therapy centres and sheltered workshops developments or extensions were approved in all states, with emphasis on facilities in country areas, on smaller community-based housing and on training for independent living skills.

26 August 1984: The Minister for Social Security announced Government funding of up to $12 million for new services for disabled people in 1985-86 under the Handicapped Persons Assistance Act. He said that consideration would be given to innovative ideas for delivery of services provided they met the requirements of the Act. Private organisations were invited to apply for funds and further applications could be called at a later date if any legislative changes resulted from the recommendations of the Handicapped Programs Review.

13 March 1984: The Minister for Social Security announced that the Handicapped Programs Review, established in September 1983, had so far received about 1400 submission. The aim of the current consultation phase was to develop ideas presented in those submissions and to discuss options leading to recommendations for change reflecting the needs of disabled people throughout Australia.
11 April 1984: The Minister for Social Security announced that the Commonwealth Government would introduce legislation to provide for special short-term accommodation in subsidised hostels for frail aged and disabled people. It was expected that some 1350 respite beds would become available over the next three years, with about half available in 1983-84. These will be used by elderly, frail or disabled people being cared for in the community allowing their carers to have a break. To qualify for the new subsidy hostels would have to maintain beds for respite care. Those with up to fifty beds would be expected to keep one bed for respite care and those with over fifty beds to maintain two respite care beds.

10 May 1984: An amendment to the Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act was introduced by the Minister representing the Minister for Social Security to allow the introduction of short-term respite care for the frail aged and disabled.

21 August 1984: Details were given in the Budget statement of the subsidy to encourage the provision of respite care beds in hostels. The subsidy would commence in November 1984, at a rate of $10 a week for each approved respite care bed occupied for less than two weeks, and $50 a week for those occupied for two weeks or more. These subsidies would be increased by 10 per cent from 1 January 1985.

24 October 1984: The Minister for Social Security announced further details of the respite care subsidy, to be available from this date. Payment would be made at the rate of $40 a month for each respite care bed occupied by an aged or disabled person for up to two weeks in that period, and $200 a month if the bed was occupied for more than two weeks. Respite care might normally be provided for up to six weeks and could be extended for up to 12 weeks.

1 May 1984: A new allowance for pensioners and other social security beneficiaries living in remote areas came into effect. Permanent residents of areas covered by Tax Zone A, which includes the entire Northern Territory, the north-west of Queensland and the northern half of Western Australia, were eligible for the new benefits and received an extra $7 a week on single pension rates and an extra $12 a week if married, with $3.50 a week for each dependent child.

1 November 1984: Rates of workers’ compensation benefits for Commonwealth employees were increased by 7.1 per cent, in line with the percentage movement in Average Weekly Earnings over the first half of 1984.

10 May 1984: The Minister representing the Minister for Social Security introduced additions and amendments to the Social Security and Repatriation legislation. These changes included the introduction of short-term respite care accommodation for the aged and disabled (see Respite Care Program). Other additions and amendments included: (i) Supplementary (rent) allowance would become available to sickness beneficiaries without dependents who are hospitalised. This would assist them to continue to meet rent payments while in hospital and for them to secure continued tenancy; (ii) the anomaly would be eliminated under the benefits income test where, in the past, the total benefit received by a married couple with private income, both of whom are entitled to benefit in their own right, could be significantly less than where only one spouse received the combined rate of benefit. This would ensure consistent treatment with pensioners; (iii) the anomaly would be removed which disadvantages those who receive a lump sum on the termination of employment in instalments, as opposed to those who just take the lump sum. The instalments usually will not be included as income for benefit purposes under the Bill, and (iv) the payment of unemployment benefit may be postponed at present for a period of between six and twelve weeks if the person’s own actions caused his unemployment. The Bill will eliminate this compulsory minimum six week period because it has resulted in persons suffering undue hardship. For example, a person with a spouse and 3 children who is dismissed by an employer for what might have been some minor misdemeanour can suffer the double penalty of job loss and losing six weeks’ benefit.

15 June 1984: The Social Security and Repatriation Legislation Amendment Bill passed the Senate.

11 May 1984: The Minister for Social Security announced the government’s intention to co-ordinate all emergency and crisis support schemes under a single Accommodation Assistance Act. This was being negotiated between the Commonwealth and State governments, though the Minister recognised the important role of non-government organisations in this area.
24 May 1984: Commonwealth funding of $2.1 million, an increase in funding of ten per cent over the previous year, would be provided for the continuation of the Youth Services Scheme, reported the Minister for Social Security. The scheme provides crisis accommodation and support services for homeless youth and is cost-shared on a dollar-for-dollar basis by the Commonwealth and State governments.

26 June 1984: The Minister for Social Security and the Victorian Minister for Community Welfare Services announced continued funding until 30 June 1985 of the Youth Accommodation Services Program (YASP), whose cost is shared equally between the Commonwealth and State governments.

21 August 1984: It was announced in the Budget that the government would introduce, subject to negotiations with the States and Northern Territory, a new Supported Accommodation Assistance Program to operate from 1 January 1985 to 30 June 1989. The program would replace the Homeless Persons’ Assistance Program, the Women’s Emergency Services Program, the Youth Services Scheme and related elements of both the Family Support Services Scheme and the Children’s Services Program. The new program was to include three sub-programs: The Youth Supported Accommodation Program; the Women’s Emergency Services Program, and the General Supported Accommodation Program. In addition to funds transferred from existing programs, $4.6 million would be available from 1 January 1985 for this new program.

Glossary of Social Security Terms

27 May 1984: The Minister for Social Security launched a glossary of social security and welfare terms in Vietnamese, the second in a series designed to help non-English speaking Australians better understand their rights and obligations when applying for welfare assistance.

Information Gathering by the Department Of Social Security

12 June 1984: The Minister for Social Security stated that a pensioner who refused to divulge information about other pensioners would not lose his pension under Section 135 TF of the Social Security Act.

Social Security Appeals System

29 June 1984: The Minister for Social Security and the Attorney-General announced that the government had received recommendations from the Administrative Review Council concerning the reform of the structure and form of social security appeals. The Council recommended changes to the Social Security Appeals Tribunals to establish an external review tribunal able to hear and determine appeals rather than merely make recommendations to the Director-General.

Invalid Pension

29 June 1984: The Minister for Social Security and the Minister for Health announced the appointment of the first travelling medical officers in Australia, with the aim of streamlining medical examination of social security claimants. The first appointments were made in Tasmania, with one full-time officer in the north of the state and one part-time officer for the south.

Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service

2 July 1984: The Minister for Social Security announced a new forward plan for the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service (CRS) for the period 1984-85 to 1986-87. There would be further decentralisation of the service with the development of smaller, more accessible community-based services. Services would be specifically developed for women, migrants and Aborigines. There would also be provision for a systematic and continuing evaluation of CRS programs.

Pensioner Fringe Benefits

30 July 1984: A report entitled Pensioner Fringe Benefits: Their Range, Cost and Value was released by the Minister for Social Security. It had been prepared by the Social Welfare Policy Secretariat and provided information on the nature of fringe benefits provided by the Commonwealth, the States and Territories and the eligibility conditions for pensioners, estimates of the 1982-83 costs of providing the benefits, and estimates of the 1981-82 value of these benefits to individual pensioners.

Special Benefits for Elderly Immigrants

1 August 1984: The Minister for Social Security announced the release of new guidelines to help many elderly immigrants receiving or applying for Special Benefit. Changes in the guidelines would apply to people who had migrated to Australia under the Assurance of Support Scheme, previously known as a maintenance guarantee, required in many cases as a pre-condition for the entry of elderly immigrants into Australia. Under the new guidelines, claimants will now be assessed on the basis of their own
Social Security and Welfare

financial circumstances, and the financial circumstances of the Assuror will not be taken into account. The liability of Assurors to repay to the Government money paid out in Special Benefit will also be changed. If an Assurance of Support was signed after 2 April 1984, when amendments to the Migration Act were proclaimed, the Assuror's legal liability to repay Special Benefit would cease when the immigrant involved became an Australian Citizen. If an Assurance was signed before April 2, it would cease to be regarded as valid when the person involved became absorbed into the community.

Tuberculosis

21 August 1984: The Minister for Health announced that the Tuberculosis Act 1948 would be amended so that, from 1 November 1984, new sufferers from tuberculosis would be treated in the same way as sufferers from any other illness; if they met the eligibility criteria they would receive sickness benefit. Current sufferers from tuberculosis would receive a frozen rate of allowance until it was overtaken by the rate of sickness benefit.

Method of Social Security Payments

6 September 1984: The Minister for Social Security announced that, from January 1985, the main method of social security payments would be through direct credit to a bank or other chosen financial institution. Pensions and family allowance cheques would be converted first, with unemployment and sickness benefits following in April 1985. There would be provision to continue to mail cheques to those granted exemption.

Department of Community Services

11 December 1984: The Prime Minister announced the creation of a new Department of Community Services, which would have responsibility for coordinating all government social security, community services and health and welfare policies. It would administer programs which provide or subsidise services to the aged, the disabled, children and others in special need. The new department would include the Offices of Aged Care, Child Care and the Disabled, together with a policy coordination office replacing the Social Welfare Policy Secretariat. Responsibility for nursing homes, home nursing and assistance for the disabled hitherto in the Department of Health would be transferred to the Department of Community Services. The Department of Social Security would retain responsibility for payment of pensions and benefits.

14 December 1984: The Minister for Community Services announced grants to welfare agencies in all states and territories for emergency relief programs in 1984-85. The grants, totalling almost $6 million, included specific allocations for Aboriginal welfare organisations.

Home and Community Care

21 August 1984: It was announced in the Budget that the Government had decided to restructure its support for home and community care services. It would introduce a new Home and Community Care (HACC) program in the form of a three-year, cost-shared, rolling program subject to satisfactory negotiations with the States, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. It intended that, from 1 July 1985, new legislation would give effect to agreements reached between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories and that this legislation will then replace relevant existing legislation for a number of current community care programs including home nursing. The new program, estimated to cost the Commonwealth in excess of $300 million over the first three years, would be directed towards aged and younger disabled people and families in need of home care services. In addition to funds provided in 1984-85 under existing legislation, the Commonwealth had allocated an additional $10 million for this program in 1984-85, which would be provided on an unmatched basis to the States and Territories if satisfactory agreements were reached with the Commonwealth concerning the new program. A condition of the agreements would be that States maintain their commitments under existing cost-shared programs. In 1984-85 total Commonwealth spending on home care services would rise by 49 per cent to $91.8 million.

Family Support Services Scheme

21 August 1984: It was announced in the Budget that, for the first time, the Government would make a specific allocation to the Family Support Services Scheme separately from funding for the Children's Services Program. An allocation of $2.39 million would be made from 1 January 1985 to extend funding for this scheme to 30 September 1985.
State Social Security and Welfare Policy Events

Compiled with the assistance of the Department of Youth and Community Services, New South Wales; Department of Welfare Services, Queensland; Department of Community Services, Victoria.

New South Wales

Community Welfare Act

1 February 1984: Partial implementation of the Community Welfare Act 1982 was achieved when Parts V and VI and a number of individual sections were proclaimed by Parliament. The remainder of the Act, which contains significant provisions, has yet to be proclaimed. The Act has been the subject of a comprehensive review from which a number of amendments have been proposed. These amendments are currently being considered by the Government.

26 October 1984: Additional sections of the Community Welfare Act were proclaimed.

Young Offenders

11 October 1984: The New South Wales Government announced plans for the reorganisation of the Department of Youth and Community Service's programs for young offenders. These plans include the establishment of regional services to enable retention of young offenders near their families or significant others; the introduction of a support scheme aimed at diverting young people from institutions through the provision of community supervision; and the establishment of a limited number of intensively staffed community cottages for carefully selected young offenders. The construction of a small high security unit to replace Endeavour House, Tamworth, and the expansion of the community service order scheme whereby young offenders complete a court specified period of unpaid community work as an alternative to a custodial sentence, are also included in the plans. The Government has also agreed to changes to police procedures aimed at diverting minor offenders from the juvenile justice system.

Queensland

Family and Community Development Bill

12 April 1984: A preliminary draft working copy of a proposed Family and Community Development Bill to repeal and replace the existing Children's Services Act was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Submissions were subsequently received on a wide range of issues and further consideration is being given to the Bill.

Parole Orders (Transfer) Act

26 April 1984: Assent was given to the Parole Orders (Transfer) Act 1984. The Act provides for the reciprocal enforcement of parole orders across state or territorial boundaries, all other states and territories having similar legislation. The Act allows the appropriate authorities to request that their counterparts in another state or territory register a parole order so that it has legal effect at that place. The parolee must consent to or request such registration, or be residing in the receiving state or territory.

Prisoners (Interstate Transfer) Act

1 July 1984: The Prisoners (Interstate Transfer) Act was proclaimed and the Weekend Detention Act was consequently repealed in part.

Working Party on National Informations Systems for Disabled People

27 July 1984: The Department of Welfare Services' Disabled Persons Service will coordinate a Working Paper on National Informations Systems for Disabled People. The purpose of this is to ensure, if possible, that the various states and territories use a standardised terminology and software for ease of communication amongst them.

Victoria

Long-term Residency in Caravan Parks

It recommended that long-term residency be legitimised, subject to the development of appropriate standards and regulations.

Child Protection

12 February 1984: A special pilot child protection service has been established in the Goulburn Region. Two protective assessment workers will work closely with police and other services on a 24-hour on-call basis.

12 July 1984: A report, A Study of Community Responses to Child Maltreatment: The Development of Protocols, was released. The report challenged the popular conception that children are maltreated by uncaring parents who are sometimes glibly labelled as baby bashers.

8 August 1984: The Children’s Protection Society, which shares with the police the statutory duty of investigation of child maltreatment, is to change its role. The Society’s future role will be to assist the government in developing child protection programs.

Victorian Community Foundation

15 March 1984: The Victorian Community Foundation was launched as a vehicle for public donations to be used for approved community development programs. The Foundation will work in partnership with the government in the raising and distribution of public funds, these funds will be managed by the ANZ executors and Trustees Company Limited.

Accomodation

25 December 1984: A new Support Accomodation Program for People in Crisis will commence in Victoria from 1 January 1985. The program provides for three separate areas – youth; homeless people and women’s emergency services.

Migrant Women Refuge Service

4 May 1984: Migrant women are currently being assisted by a new women’s refuge service that provides seven part-time ethnic workers and a full-time co-ordinator to work with migrant women in refuges.

Services to Children and Youth

15 May 1984: Assent was given to the Penalties and Sentences (Youth Attendance Projects) Act 1984. This Act amends the Penalties and Sentences Act 1984 and the Community Welfare Services Act 1970 and provides a non-custodial, community based alternative for an offender who would otherwise be sentenced to detention in a youth training centre.

9 August 1984: A boost to subsidised child care services will result in more than 2600 extra child care places for Victorians and the creation of hundreds of jobs. The total subsidy of $7 million will result in a 25 per cent increase in subsidised child care places and funding.

11 September 1984: Victoria has secured an extra half million dollars from the Federal Government to fund ‘after school’ services.

16 October 1984: Assent was given to the Children (Guardianship and Custody) Act 1984. This Act provides two new orders from the County Court or the Supreme Court to allow relatives or non-relatives to gain orders for guardianship and custody as an alternative to Adoption Orders.

20 November 1984: A State/Commonwealth government grant has established 38 new ‘after school’ and seven ‘before school’ services in 35 municipalities identified as being in greatest need. For the first time, the scheme also includes an out of school hours service at a school for disabled children.

Neighbourhood Houses Scheme

13 October 1984: A new Neighbourhood Houses Scheme which will provide funds for such facilities in each Region has been established. The amount provided to each Neighbourhood House will vary, the precise amount being recommended by the local Regional Consultative Council.

Report on Low Income People

28 December 1984: A major report entitled State Concessions in Victoria was released on State government initiatives for Victorian low income people. The report lists over 70 different State concessions and low income support programs including winter gas and electricity concessions.
Employment, Unemployment and Training

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Trade Training

13 January 1984: The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations released the report of the Departments of Labour Advisory Committee Working Party on the Supply of and Demand for Skilled Labour. The report outlined a framework for assessing the labour market for skilled trades.

22 January 1984: The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs announced a new strategy of improved planning designed to meet the need for skilled workers through greater training of Australians and reduced reliance on skilled migrants. The new procedures were expected to apply from July 1984.

1 March 1984: A package of financial assistance aimed at increasing apprenticeships was announced by the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations. The package, amounting to $19 million over three years, included financial incentives to encourage employers to take on additional apprentices and further financial incentives for employers to take on more female apprentices.

18 May 1984: The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and the Western Australian Minister for Planning, Employment, Training and Consumer Affairs announced additional places in pre-apprenticeship courses in Western Australia, as part of the Commonwealth Government's offer to all states and territories to create an additional 3000 trade-based pre-employment course places in 1984.

1 July 1984: The Occupational Share System, a new system for determining levels of skilled immigration, which was foreshadowed in January, replaced the Occupational Demand System.

19 July 1984: The report of an inquiry into educational aspects of apprenticeship training in Australia, undertaken by the Commonwealth/State Apprenticeship Committee Working Party on Institutional Trade Training, was released by the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations. The major conclusions of the report included findings that full-time institutional training was not a viable option and that there was a need for the development of innovative approaches to training.

21 August 1984: The 1984-85 Commonwealth Budget provided $122 million for trade training, including $103 million for the Commonwealth Rebate for Apprentice Full-time Training (CRAFT).

9 September 1984: The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations released the first in a proposed annual series of reports on the labour market for skilled trades. The report, The Labour Market for Skills - Trends and Prospects, provides the basis for determining the levels of skilled immigration under the Occupational Share System introduced on 1 July.

19 October 1984: The meeting in Hobart of the Conference of Commonwealth and State Labour Ministers considered a review of employment prospects for the trades and the impact of government initiatives on apprentice intakes.

Employment and Training for Aborigines

7 February 1984: The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations released a report on Aboriginal unemployment produced by the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations (DEIR) on the basis of a survey of Aborigines registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) during June 1983. The main findings of the report, CES Review of Aboriginal Unemployed, were that long-term unemployment was far more severe among Aborigines than other job seekers and that Aborigines registered with the CES were disadvantaged by a lack of education, of work-related skills and of employment experience, particularly in the case of Aborigines living in remote areas.

21 August 1984: The 1984-85 Commonwealth Budget provided $50.9 million for the Aboriginal Training Program.

7 October 1984: When announcing the approval of a number of new Community Employment Program (CEP) projects for Aborigines, the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs announced that $10 million of the 1984-85 allocation for CEP had been earmarked specifically for projects for Aborigines and that a total of $95 million would be spent on employment and training programs for Aborigines in 1984-85.

25 October 1984: The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs announced the establishment of a Committee of Review to examine all federal employment and training programs for Aborigines. The Review of Aboriginal Employment and Training Programs would report by May 1985 and would be chaired by Mr Mick Miller, a Commissioner of the Aboriginal Development Commission and Chairman of the North Queensland Land Council.
Community-based Youth Support Programs

10 February 1984: The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations released the report of a study which examined the effectiveness of the Community Youth Support Scheme (CYSS) in catering for the needs of young unemployed women. The report, Research Study on the Community Youth Support Scheme and Young Women, was prepared by Professor Eileen Byrne.

8 June 1984: The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations called for applications from existing CYSS projects and for proposed new projects for CYSS funding for the 12 month grant period commencing on 1 November 1984.

21 August 1984: The 1984-85 Commonwealth Budget included provision for $26.2 million for CYSS, a 23 per cent increase over 1983-84 expenditure.

25 September 1984: The Acting Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations announced a minimum 10 per cent increase in CYSS grant levels from 1 November 1984. The new grant levels would be $44,000, $72,000 and $100,000. A number of new CYSS measures to be introduced in 1984 were also announced. These included: the allocation of $500,000 in 1984-85 for training CYSS project officers and local management committee members, compared to $150,000 in 1983-84; a broadening of the membership on CYSS State Advisory Committees; and the allocation of $500,000 in Initiative Grants for special CYSS measures to assist unemployed young women and other particularly disadvantaged groups in the labour market. These new measures were largely a response to recommendations made in the Byrne Report and in the Interim Report of the Committee of Inquiry into Labour Market Programs.

26 October 1984: Details of CYSS project funding for the year beginning 1 November 1984 were announced by the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations. There would be 319 CYSS projects including 14 new projects and 36 which would have their funding levels upgraded.

Community Employment Program

21 February 1984: The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations urged greater participation by community groups in the Community Employment Program (CEP).

18 May 1984: A conference in Melbourne on the CEP was opened by the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations. The conference was convened by DEIR and attended by representatives of organisations involved in implementation of the CEP.

6 June 1984: The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations announced a revision of CEP guidelines which would reduce the minimum level of financial contributions required from local govern-

21 May 1984: The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations announced the commencement of the Australian National Longitudinal Survey of Youth in the Labour Market which is to be undertaken by the BLMR. The Survey will run for several years and involve the interviewing of the same group of people at successive times in order to provide information on the labour market experience of youth and on the impact of labour market programs. The first year of the Survey will involve interviews with 5000 people, including 1000 people employed on the CEP.

22 June 1984: The Acting Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations announced grants through the BLMR over the next three years totalling $240 000 for the support and development of two national centres of labour market research. The centres are the National Institute for Labour Studies at Flinders University and the Industrial Relations Research Centre at the University of New South Wales.

5 October 1984: The third monograph produced by the BLMR, The National Employment and Training System (NEAT) An Evaluation, was released by the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations.

20 September 1984: The BLMR released its Submission to Committee of Inquiry into Labour Market Programs. The BLMR submission focussed on: evaluation procedures; the results of recent evaluations of existing programs, labour market planning and information on training.

Employment and Training for Women

7 March 1984: Assent to the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 was reported in Parliament.

29 May 1984: A Green Paper, Affirmative Action for Women, proposing policies on affirmative action for women in employment was tabled in Parliament.

21 August 1984: The 1984-85 Commonwealth Budget included provision of $203 000 for establishment of a Women's Research and Employment Initiatives Program (WREIP) to undertake research into specific initiatives in women's employment.

30 August 1984: The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations provided further details of the WREIP. The Program would be administered by the Women's Bureau of the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations.

16 October 1984: Current government measures directed at women in the labour market were outlined by the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations in an address to a conference on women and their employment. The conference, From Margin to Mainstream: A National Conference About Women and Employment, was organised by the Victorian Ministry of Employment and Training, the Women's Bureau of DEIR and the Office of Women's Affairs of the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Special Assistance for Large-Scale Retrenchments

22 March 1984: The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and the New South Wales Premier announced the commitment of $18.7 million of federal funds toward construction by the NSW government of a seaboard grain-handling terminal at Port Kembla. The funding was made under the federal government's program of special employment and training initiatives which was announced in August last year. Further projects under the program were announced during the year: $1.8 million for two projects in Whyalla was announced on 1 June; and $600 000 for a project in the Illawarra Region was announced on 28 August.

Review of Labour Market Programs

7 June 1984: The Interim Report of the Committee of Inquiry into Labour Market Programs was released by the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations. The report included preliminary recommendations concerning, in general, a need for closer linkage between training, education and work experience programs and, in particular, SYETP, CYSS and apprenticeship support initiatives. The final report of the Committee was expected at the end of 1984.

Extent of Employment and Training Programs

30 June 1984: Commonwealth expenditure on employment and training programs in 1983-84 excluding the temporary job creation schemes amounted to $381 million which provided various forms of assistance to 370 000 people. The total expenditure included: $26 million for skills training; $110 million for trade training; $136 million for youth training, $53 million for special training; $25 million for community-based youth support; and $23 million for assistance for long term unemployed adults. Expenditure on the WPP in 1983-84 was $148 million and on the CEP in 1983-84 was $285 million, with 52 000 temporary jobs provided on CEP projects which were approved or recommended by 30 June.

21 August 1984: The 1984-85 Commonwealth Budget provided $846 million for labour market programs, including $412 million for the CEP. Other major features of the Budget allocation were: a 40 per cent increase in expenditure on skills training; a 26
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per cent increase in expenditure on youth training; a 24 per cent increase in expenditure on training for Aboriginals; and a 27 per cent increase in Adult Wage Subsidy Scheme (AWSS) funds.

Commonwealth Employment Service

10 July 1984: The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations announced the appointment of Mr Michael Jenkins as National Director of the Commonwealth Employment Service. Mr Jenkins was a Deputy Secretary of the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations.

Wage Subsidy Programs

27 July 1984: The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations announced administrative changes to the major wage subsidy programs: the Special Youth Employment Training Program (SYETP), and the Adult Wage Subsidy Scheme (AWSS). The principal change would be the replacement of the flat-rate SYETP subsidy by different rates for different age groups with the Standard SYETP rate set at around 40 per cent of average earnings for the relevant age group. The $75 per week subsidy under standard SYETP would be replaced by weekly subsidy rates of: $50 for people aged 15-17 years; $75 for people aged 18 to 19 years; and $100 for people aged 20 years. Correspondingly, the two-step Extended SYETP weekly subsidy of $100 and $75 would be reduced for 18 to 19 years olds to $75 and $50. Other changes included: priority to be given by the CES to the longer-term unemployed when referring eligible people to SYETP and AWSS positions; a new guideline that job-seekers would not be subsidised under SYETP if they had worked in the same type of job previously unless substantial new skills were to be learned; and provisions which would enable the CES to refuse further subsidies to any employer who is considered to abuse the programs by using them as a continuing source of subsidised labour – specifically, employers would be required to retain one in every three subsidised workers for at least two months beyond the subsidy period. These changes to the wage subsidy programs were made partly as a response to the interim report of the Committee of Inquiry into Labour Market Programs and would come into effect on 3 July 1984.

21 August 1984: The 1984-85 Commonwealth Budget provided $36 million for skills training, an increase of 40 per cent over 1983-84 levels.

Self-Employment Initiatives

13 November 1984: In the Labour Party policy speech for the forthcoming federal election, the Prime Minister, foreshadowed the establishment of a New Enterprise Incentive Scheme to assist those unemployed who had viable business propositions to generate their own employment opportunities. The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations said the basis of the Scheme would be the provision of income support, broadly equivalent to unemployment benefit entitlement, for up to a year for unemployed people who are able to put forward a viable business proposition. The proposed date of commencement of the Scheme would be 1 March 1985 when it would be established on an experimental basis with an initial pilot program involving up to 600 participants.
National Maintenance Inquiry Report

7 February 1984: The report of the National Maintenance Inquiry was released for public comment. Its major recommendation was that a single national maintenance agency be established with the following three primary policy objectives: to reduce the hardships of supporting parents; to preserve the integrity of the judicial system and to reduce social security expenditure, in so far as this is possible and reasonable. An appropriate aim of the agency, as seen by the Inquiry, is to ensure, as far as possible, that the moral responsibility to support children is not abdicated. The major functions of the agency as expressed in the report are as follows: to assist applicants to obtain orders or negotiate agreements; to receive and disburse money in respect of orders for periodic maintenance or the payment of quantifiable sums by way of maintenance, either where the court has directed that payment be made through the agency or one of the parties has so requested; to assist with the enforcement of orders and agreements upon default, whether or not payments were previously payable through the agency; to assist both applicants and respondents who make out a reasonable case for variation to seek a variation order; and to assist with financial counselling. The report estimated that a maximum of nearly 40 per cent of Australian maintenance orders are fully complied with, and an additional 40 per cent are never paid at all. As envisaged the agency would, if possible, cover both Family Law Act and non-Family Law Act cases, should have a centralized Canberra-based co-ordinating body and a network of regional offices and should be set up as a separate Commonwealth authority, with established links with the taxation, social security and court systems. To increase its efficiency the report recommended that the agency should contain or have access to an adequately staffed federal location unit to trace absent payers. Other recommendations included adoption of a scheme allowing for the diversion of tax refunds owing to maintenance debtors to the maintenance collection and enforcement agency for payment to the relevant maintenance applicants and further examination by an appropriate specialist group of the tax deductibility of maintenance payments.
and Custody) Act 1984 are also relevant to the operation of S.11-12 of the Adoption Act 1984 with respect to applications by step-parents or relatives to adopt a child. The Act was proclaimed and took effect as from 1 June 1985.

13 November 1984: Assent was given to the Adoption Act 1984 which repealed the Adoption of Children Act 1964. This Act, a companion act to the Children (Guardianship and Custody) Act 1984, introduces major changes to adoption legislation and practice in Victoria. The major provisions of the Adoption Act, to be proclaimed in parts, include: (i) access to identifying/birth information by adopted persons, relinquishing parents, adoptive parents and other family members; (ii) consents not to be taken until at least 14 days after birth; (iii) the consent of the father of an ex-nuptial child to be required, provided paternity is established; (iv) the introduction of clear guidelines in the placement of Aboriginal children; (v) changes in eligibility to adopt a child; (vi) guardianship and/or custody orders to be granted to step-parents and relatives unless there are special reasons for making an adoption order; (vii) adoption agencies are to be registered for up to three year periods and their standards subject to review. The sections of the Act enabling adopted adults access to their original birth certificates took effect from 14 April 1985.

New South Wales

May 1984: The Minister for Youth and Community Services commissioned an internal review of adoption policy and practice in New South Wales.

24 December 1984: A report entitled Review of Adoption Policy and Practice in New South Wales was submitted to the Minister for Youth and Community Services and an advisory committee established to examine and report on the contents of the Review. An option paper and a review of the report will be publicly available in September 1985.

Western Australia

11 October 1984: The Report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly appointed to enquire into the Adoption of Children Amendment Bill 1983 was presented. The Select Committee’s particular task was to enquire into the appropriateness of privately arranged adoptions in Western Australia. The Committee concluded that the prevention of privately arranged adoptions, which was the main purpose of the Bill, better served the interests of all parties in the adoption triangle. The Committee further recommended a more extensive review of the Western Australian Adoption of Children Act 1896, and outlined a number of considerations to be taken into account in such a review.

Legislation and Policy on Reproductive Technology

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Commonwealth

11 July 1984: The Asche Committee, a Committee to consider issues relating to Artificial Insemination by Donor (AID), In Vitro Fertilization (IVF), Embryo Transfer (ET) and related matters presented its Interim Report to the Family Law Council. The report identified and discussed a number of policy issues, recommended that a national body be set up to advise federal, state and territory governments on these matters so as to ensure uniformity, and was forwarded by the Council to the Federal Attorney-General.

New South Wales

13 July 1984: A report was presented to the NSW Government, entitled Human Artificial Insemination by Donor – Some Australian Perspectives (New South Wales, 1983-1984), July 1984. This Report presented the results of two surveys of public opinion on artificial insemination and was carried out by Dr Graeme Rawson of the School of Health Administration at the University of New South Wales.

1 August 1984: The Artificial Conception Act, 1984 and its companion act, the Children (Equality of Status) Amendment Act 1984 took effect. The Artificial Conception Act which was passed in February 1984 provides for the paternity and the legal status of AID and IVF children born as a result of the use of donated sperm. The Children (Equality of Status) Amendment Act provides for presumptions of paternity arising in cases where a husband has not consented to the artificial insemination by donor of his wife.

1 November 1984: The Law Reform Commission of New South Wales released Human Artificial Insemination: Artificial Conception Discussion Paper 1. This Discussion Paper was released by the Law Reform Commission to focus public attention on the
issues for law reform relating to AID and to assist the Commission in the preparation of a final report to the Minister.

Queensland

1 March 1984: The Report of the Demack Committee, the Report of the Special Committee appointed by the Queensland Government to Enquire into the Laws relating to Artificial Insemination, In Vitro Fertilization and other Related Matters was presented to the Queensland Cabinet. The Demack Report contained recommendations covering the provision and regulation of AID and IVF programs, the establishment of legal status, and the prohibition of surrogate motherhood. The report also recommended the establishment of a Queensland Bioethics Advisory Committee to advise the Queensland Government on bioethical issues - with a membership reflecting varied expertise, perspectives and experience.

South Australia

31 January 1984: A report, In Vitro Fertilization and Artificial Insemination by Donor was presented to the Health Commission of South Australia. The Connon and Kelly Report contained recommendations concerning the legal status of children, donors and the social parents in AID and in IVF programs using donor gametes, the provision and regulation of AID and IVF programs, and the prohibition of surrogate motherhood.

17 October 1984: The South Australian Legislative Council set up a Select Committee on Artificial Insemination by Donor, In Vitro Fertilization and Embryo Transfer Procedures in South Australia. The committee was set up with broad terms of reference, to report back to Parliament in 1985.

15 August 1984: The final report of the Wailer Committee, a Committee appointed to consider the social, ethical and legal issues arising from In Vitro Fertilization was presented to the Victorian Attorney-General. This Report on the Disposition of Embryos produced by In Vitro Fertilization contained recommendations covering the freezing, storage and disposition of embryos, experimentation on embryos, and the prohibition of surrogate motherhood. In addition, the report recommended the establishment of a Standing Review and the Advisory Body to advise the Minister of Health in relation to infertility.

Victoria

1 August 1984: The Status of Children (Amendment) Act 1984, which provides for the status of children born following the use of AID or IVF, took effect. The Act, based on the recommendations of the second Wailer Report, provides for establishing both paternity and maternity where donor gametes are used (whether donor sperm, donor ova or donor embryo), and for establishing the legal status of the children thus born and their parents.

15 August 1984: The final report of the Wailer Committee, a Committee appointed to consider the social, ethical and legal issues arising from In Vitro Fertilization was presented to the Victorian Attorney-General. This Report on the Disposition of Embryos produced by In Vitro Fertilization contained recommendations covering the freezing, storage and disposition of embryos, experimentation on embryos, and the prohibition of surrogate motherhood. In addition, the report recommended the establishment of a Standing Review and the Advisory Body to advise the Minister of Health in relation to infertility.

Western Australia

16 August 1984: The Meadows Committee presented its Interim Report of the In Vitro Fertilization Ethics Committee of Western Australia. The report discusses a number of issues and makes recommendations with respect to some aspects of the practice of IVF. In
concluding, it recommends that the Minister for Health conduct an evaluation of IVF in Western Australia to assist the Committee in its work and to provide information as to the results and effects of IVF.

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**Immigration**

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**Migrant Services**

4 January 1984: Grants for migrant welfare valued at $7.5 million over the next five years were announced by the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. The grants were part of the Grants-in-aid Scheme and will enable 100 organisations to employ social welfare staff to help migrants with their settlement.

26 February 1984: The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs released details of a national survey which identified areas requiring improved services for migrants. The survey was commissioned to examine the most suitable locations for the national network of migrant resource centres funded by the Federal Government.

9 March 1984: A book entitled *Living in Australia* was launched by the Ministry for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. It has been designed as a handy guide-book and provides information people might want to know in their first year in Australia. The book will be released later in the year in 13 languages and a further four translations are being completed under the Community Employment Program.

9 March 1984: The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs also launched a video kit for training teachers and other professionals to rate non English speakers' ability to speak, understand, read or write English. The system is called the Australian Second Language Proficiency Ratings (ASLPR) and will be used by the Adult Migrant Education Program (AMEP).

29 May 1984: A cost sharing agreement between the Victorian and Federal governments will enable an upgraded and fully professional legal interpreting service to be established in Victoria. The service will be administered by the Victorian Ethnic Affairs Commission.

7 June 1984: The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs announced project grants totalling $75,950 to 24 ethnic and community organisations. The grants were made under the Migrant Project Subsidies Scheme, which provides once only subsidies of up to $10,000 for projects in the field of migrant welfare.
21 August 1984: The Budget allocations for immigration and ethnic affairs were announced by the Minister, they represent a 12.4 per cent increase over the level of expenditure of 1983-84. The migrant resource centre network will be extended and strengthened ($1.835 million), the Adult Migrant Education Program has been allocated a total of $43.74 million for its large range of services and the level of funding for the Migrant Project Subsidy Scheme has been maintained at $200 000. New agreements with the States have been negotiated for the provision of translator and interpreter services and with a much larger allocation being made in the Budget for 1984-85 ($1.128 million). Marginal increases to existing departmental fees and charges were also announced in the Budget. An allocation of $500 000 was made to the Special Broadcasting Service to develop a pilot series of programs designed to teach English to migrants was also made in the Budget.

20 September 1984: The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs announced plans to open four new adult migrant education 'self access' centres in Sydney and Melbourne early in 1985. The centres allow migrants to learn English at their own pace, at times convenient to them, under teacher guidance.

12 October 1984: The Migrant Resource Centre Program received a $295 000 boost in funding for disadvantaged migrants in the under-serviced areas of Sydney and Melbourne.

17 October 1984: The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs announced a $100 000 Community Employment Program grant to the Ethnic Council of Shepparton and District for the Shepparton Multicultural contact house.

23 October 1984: Twenty one grants totalling $90 110 to migrant and community organisations under the Migrant Project Subsidy Scheme were announced by the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

Refugees

9 February 1984: The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs announced that the government had decided to establish special entry arrangements for Lebanese with close relatives in Australia directly affected by the present fighting in Lebanon. The arrangements will operate within the general framework of special humanitarian entry provisions but would have a number of distinctive features.

7 March 1984: Revised arrangements to resolve resettlement claims by displaced East Timorese with rights of residence in third countries were announced by the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

19 April, 31 July, 31 October 1984: Extensions were granted to the special concessions given to Lebanese in Australia affected by the fighting in their country. The next review would be in January 1985. The Department is undertaking a detailed assessment of the situation.

21 August 1984: The 1984-85 Budget provided for the continuation of the community refugee settlement scheme which enables people and groups in the community to sponsor and assist refugees.

Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs

14 February 1984: Public consultations, as recommended by the Committee of Review of the AIMA, on administrative arrangements to implement the government's community relations and multicultural policies would commence this week.

21 August 1984: The AIMA received a budget allocation of $2.53 million. The Minister noted that the government had yet to finalise consideration of the report on the review of the AIMA and the outcome of the community consultations.

11 October 1984: In a ministerial statement to Parliament, the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs announced the government’s decision to retain the AIMA. The government has considered both the report from the Committee of Review of the AIMA (8 December 1983) and the report of the Council of the AIMA but does not accept the recommendation that the Institute be replaced. The government has decided to expand the functions of the Institute and to increase the Council from 9 to 12 members. The objectives specified in the AIMA Act will be amended to include a positive affirmation that the AIMA should promote a just and equitable society which accepts people irrespective of their particular ethnic background and affords members of different cultural and ethnic communities an effective opportunity to participate in Australian society and achieve their own potential.

Migrant Policy

22 February 1984: A new strategy aimed at determining Australia's needs for skilled workers through improved planning which will emphasise greater training of Australians and a reduced reliance on skilled migrants was announced by the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. One main element of the strategy is to undertake an annual survey of skilled occupations so as to identify those which require workers and thus allow the education and training system to respond by increasing the domestic supply. The new procedures are currently being developed and are expected to apply from the beginning of the 1984-85 financial year.

7 March 1984: The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs outlined to Parliament current
developments in the Australian migrant program. The Asian percentage in the program was rising due to a lessening interest in sponsorship from traditional source countries, and an increase in the number of refugees accepted. The government was also increasing the direct family reunion from Vietnam.

30 May 1984: The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs announced the government’s immigration program for 1984-85. The expected intake for the year will be 72 000 and will include 42 000 family reunion places, 1400 business migration places (4000 including family), 2700 skilled migrant places (7500 including family) and 14 000 refugee and special humanitarian program places.

29 June 1984: The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs announced the introduction of the Occupational Shares System (OSS) under which people applying for entry in the skilled labour sub-category would be selected. OSS comprises of 24 occupations and allows for the selection of 2700 applicants and their families in 1984-85. The Minister also announced that points awarded for age under the points system have been amended for non dependent children, brothers and sisters and skilled labour and business migration applicants, effective from 1 July.

18 July 1984: The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs released details of a number of measures which aim at improving the business migrant program and tightening its procedures to ensure that possibilities for abuse are eliminated.

21 August 1984: The immigration program for 1984-85 was announced by the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs during his Budget speech. The total intake is planned at 74 000, including a 2000 refugee contingency reserve. Refugee and special humanitarian programs have been set at 16 000 – 8000 for Indochinese, 1000 for Eastern Europeans, 750 for Latin Americans, 750 for Middle Eastern and 500 other. The business migration intake will increase to 4000 visas for business migrants and their families.

7 September 1984: The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs detailed in a ministerial statement to Parliament the progress of the government’s migration program. He also explained the government’s approach to skilled and business migration and reported on his recent visit to North and South America.

Services for Migrant Women

24 February 1984: The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs announced that child care available under the Adult Migrant Education Program was being expanded and improved following consultations with the Office of Child Care, State child welfare authorities and other child care bodies.

30 April 1984: A seminar held on the special needs of migrant women was seen by the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs as a valuable way to pinpoint ways to assist migrant women. Further seminars will be held in the future.

11 May 1984: A national program, 'Language of Childbirth', designed to help childbearing migrant women to communicate more effectively with hospital staff was launched by the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

14 September 1984: A video about pregnancy and birth in Australia was made available. The video aims to help migrant women who have difficulties in English and is available in nine languages, with three more to be completed soon.

Ethnic press survey

6 March 1984: A recently completed research survey on ethnic press had been commissioned by the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and completed by Dr Maria Tenezakis of Macquarie University, the Minister said today. The study found that people wanted to see articles relevant to their needs in Australia, such as information about services, rights and so on. Advertising by commonwealth, state and local government authorities was also under represented. A similar study in Melbourne was nearing completion.

Citizenship

5 April 1984: The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs said the computerisation of Australia’s citizenship processing system would provide a better service to the public and would be more cost effective.


22 February 1985: Assent was given to the Australian Citizenship Amendment Bill.

Private Overseas Students

22 May 1984: The arrangements for 1985 intake of private overseas students will remain at 1984 levels the Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs announced. A task force of officials had been established to assist in the consideration of the recommendations made in the Golding report on overseas student policy and the Jackson report on Australia’s overseas aid. The government has
therefore decided to delay implementation of any new policies until the 1986 intake.

21 August 1985: Overseas student's charges for 1985 were announced by the Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs during his Budget speech – master and doctorate $3350; courses in medicine, veterinary science and dentistry $3100 and all other prescribed courses $2500.

17 October 1984: The Overseas Students Charges Amendment Bill 1984 was presented for its second reading to the Senate.

22 February 1985: Assent was given to the Overseas Students Charges Amendment Bill 1984.

Council on Overseas Professional Qualifications

7 June 1984: The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, in a ministerial statement to Parliament, announced the establishment of a Council on Overseas Professional Qualifications, formed in response to the recommendations of the Fry Committee Inquiry. Professor Peter Whitten has been appointed chairperson.

21 August 1984: The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs announced a 25 per cent increase in operational expenditure and a further six staff for the Council in his Budget speech.

17 September 1984: The appointment of seven members to the Council were announced by the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic affairs. They were selected from nominations from state and territory governments, ACTU, Confederation of Australian Industry, the Ministry of Economic and Industrial Relations and the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

National Population Council

7 June 1984: The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs announced the establishment of the National Population Council in a ministerial statement to Parliament. The Council's task will be to offer advice on a wide range of issues relevant to the portfolio of immigration and ethnic affairs. The Council will make recommendations on the relationship between population growth, immigration, the economy and the quality of life. It is replacing the Australian Council of Population and Ethnic Affairs.

21 August 1984: The Budget includes funds of $132,500 for the operation of the National Population Council, the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs announced.

29 August 1985: Three committees were created at the first meeting of the Council – immigration, population and workforce planning; migration and international law and refugee policy, and ethnic affairs and settlement. Each committee will meet about four times a year and will report to the full 23 member Council which will meet twice yearly.

Immigration Review Panel

31 July 1984: The Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs announced a substantial upgrading of resources for considering appeals against decisions made within his portfolio. This included an increase in the membership of the appeals panel from 15 to 33. The Administrative Review Council is also examining the appeal system within the Department and a report is expected shortly.

Settlement Centres

21 August 1984: Eight shop front settlement centres will be opened at a cost of $610,000 in 1984-85 and totalling $1.3 million over three years. The centres will provide an important link with the existing network for new arrivals, the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs said in his Budget speech.

2 October 1984: Six migrant access centres (settlement centres) will be located in or near the capital city offices of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. They have been specially designed to reach 80 per cent of new arrivals providing them with a knowledge of services available to them.

Population Forecasts

Housing

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Assistance with Home Purchase

16 February 1984: The Minister for Housing and Construction announced that at least 50,000 grants would be made available under the First Home Owners Scheme in the initial twelve months of operation to first home buyers whose joint income should not exceed $27,900.

27 June 1984: On presenting the 50,000th First Home Ownership Scheme grant, the Minister for Housing and Construction said that his Department had received 550,000 inquiries and 91,000 applications for assistance since inception of the scheme in October 1983.

24 July 1984: Newcastle City Council, from 30 July, will operate its Housing Information Service next to the First Home Owners Scheme office, thus providing in one location information on all forms of housing assistance.

21 August 1984: The Commonwealth Budget allocated funding of an estimated $265 million to the First Home Owners Scheme. Upper income limits would be reviewed for those purchasers contracting to buy or build a house after 21 August.

Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement

4 March 1984: The Minister for Housing and Construction said that in renegotiating the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement new initiatives under consideration included an increase in the guaranteed minimum level of Commonwealth funding, a system of cost-based rents for public housing, a rental purchase scheme for lower income public housing tenants, and new programs to provide better amenities on existing housing estates, to encourage local government to provide resources to house lower income earners and to assist community groups to provide low cost rental housing. Methods were being examined of attracting borrowings from the private sector to State housing authorities.

17 May 1984: The Federal Government guaranteed a minimum funding for public housing of $1,500 million to the States and the Northern Territory for the first three years of the new Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement due to operate from 1 July 1984.

21 August 1984: The Commonwealth Federal Budget allocated $623 million to the States under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, an increase of nine per cent over the previous year, all funds being provided as non-repayable grants. Additional funds were made available for Aboriginal housing, mortgage and rent relief, and $13 million was allocated to the new consolidated program for crisis accommodation.

13 September 1984: In making the second reading speech on the Housing Assistance Bill, the Minister for Housing and Construction outlined the key features of the new Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement: a system of low-start loans to be administered by the States with repayments geared to income; youth and singles to be eligible for public housing assistance; rents for public housing tenants to be based on costs instead of market value; a rental purchase program to enable public housing tenants to purchase their home, with provision for public dwelling stock thus purchased to be replaced; assistance to community groups and local government to provide for specific needs such as boarding house accommodation, group housing and housing for single people.

22 February 1985: Assent was given to the Housing Assistance Bill 1984.

Research and Planning

9 May 1984: Experimental housing estate developments are to be set up in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland to demonstrate cost-saving innovations.

19 June 1984: The Victorian Government released its review of financial institutions which examined the roles of housing finance institutions under State control, with particular regard to the changing financial environment arising from decisions taken following the Campbell and Martin Committee reports.

21 August 1984: A survey of Commonwealth civil staff housing was announced to document standards and level of amenity, with $535,000 allocated for priority upgrading works.  

3 October 1984: The Minister for Housing and Construction announced the formation of the Australian Housing Council, to be made up of representatives from industry, government, finance, consumers and unions.

3 October 1984: Professor Fred Gruen, head of the Department of Economics, Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University, was appointed chairman of the Indicative Planning Council for the Housing Industry.

27 November 1984: A Federal Government study of land available for housing, entitled Residential Land Stock Study which revealed that stock levels had fallen considerably over the last five years in most
Local Community Housing Program

21 August 1984: The Minister for Housing and Construction announced a new scheme, entitled the Local Community Housing Program which will provide opportunity for tenants to be actively involved in managing their housing. A total of $27 million will be provided over three years, with $7 million allocated for 1984-85 to the State governments to provide financial assistance to local governments and community groups to buy, build, lease or up-grade dwellings for low cost rental housing. Local communities will be able to borrow from the private sector with government assistance.

Health

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Private Practice Rights in Public Hospitals

17 January 1984: Guidelines for rights of private practice in public hospitals for diagnostic specialists, particularly pathologists and radiologists would be gazetted next week. Four principles would be embodied: all accounts for prescribed services for private patients in public hospitals should be raised by the hospital in the name of the diagnostic specialist, all medical charges should be at or below the schedule fee, a facility charge should be paid to the hospital by the doctors for equipment and staff used in the treatment of private patients, and full-time salaried radiologists, pathologists, radiotherapists and specialists in nuclear medicine should be permitted to earn up to 25 per cent of senior specialist's salary from treating private patients in public hospitals, all earnings over that amount being placed in a hospital fund to be used for education, equipment and relevant professional travel.

24 January 1984: Professor David Penington, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Melbourne, was appointed Chairman of the Committee of Inquiry into Private Practice Arrangements in Public Hospitals under Medicare, with the two other members appointed by the Australian Medical Association and the Federal Government.

16 February 1984: The Minister for Health announced that the AMA had agreed on the terms of reference and to participate in the Inquiry.

3 April 1984: The Minister for Health reported the passage through the Senate of an amendment to Section 17 of the Health Insurance Act providing for Parliamentary scrutiny of guidelines for rights of private practice in public hospitals.

27 June 1984: The progress report of the Penington Inquiry was presented to the Minister for Health.

11 October 1984: The report of the Penington Inquiry was tabled in Parliament. It proposed, among other things, the regulation of the charging practices of all doctors in public hospitals.

Health Insurance and Medicare

15 February 1984: From 1 February 1984 any driver over the age of 70 or suffering from diabetes or...
epilepsy, living in those States or Territories which require medical examination by law, would be entitled to Medicare benefits towards the costs of such examination.

5 March 1984: The Minister for Health announced that the Queensland government had agreed to sign the Medicare agreement.

13 July 1984: It was announced that Judge Robyn Layton was to chair the Medicare Benefits Review Committee which had been set up to overhaul the medical benefits schedule. The Committee would consider whether the current scope of the Medicare arrangements should be extended to provide benefits for certain paramedical services, and it would examine all aspects of the current medical benefits schedule and the relevant provisions of the Health Insurance Act and associated regulations.

21 August 1984: The Minister for Health announced that with effect from 1 July 1984 the low income thresholds, below which no Medicare levy is paid, were to be raised to $7110 for a single taxpayer without dependants, and to $11 803 for a married couple or sole parent, with the additional amount for each dependent child or student being $1330. The liability ceiling would be raised to $750 per annum.

11 October 1984: The Minister for Health announced the opening of negotiations for a reciprocal agreement on health care between Italy and Australia and said that similar agreements with other countries were envisaged under Medicare.

Care for the Aged

11 April 1984: The Minister for Health announced Federal Government funding grants for eight projects to help older citizens 'get more out of life'. The grants would be made to a range of organisations who would demonstrate their projects around Australia.

21 August 1984: The Minister for Health and the Minister for Social Security announced provision in the Budget for the Home and Community Care program whose costs would be shared with the States and Territories. New legislation would give effect to agreements with them, replacing a number of current community care programs with a comprehensive range of integrated community care services. Greater emphasis would be placed on home care services, home help, delivered meals, home maintenance, home nursing and paramedical services. In 1984-85 in addition to existing Commonwealth funding, a sum of $10 million had been allocated on an unmatched basis. Commonwealth spending on general home care services in 1984-85 would total $91.8 million.

14 November 1984: The Minister for Housing announced that the Home and Community Care program would attract $300 million federal funding over the next three years.

Community Health Program

18 April 1984: The Minister for Health announced a grant of $32 100 by the Federal government to the Australian Community Health Association to enable a small national secretariat to be established under the Community Health Program (CHP). Further similar grants were announced during the year to a number of national organisations, including the National Epilepsy Association of Australia, the Australian Brain Foundation, the Australian National Council for the Blind and the Australian Diabetes Foundation.

Medical Fees and Benefits

2 May 1984: The Minister for Health commented on the fee increases handed down in the report of the 1984 medical fees inquiry by the Deputy President of the Arbitration Commission. The increases, operative from 15 June 1984 to 30 April 1985 are in addition to the increase of 4.3 per cent which applied from 1 March 1984.

21 August 1984: The Minister for Health announced an increase in the Budget allocation for 1984-85 to $15 million for the Isolated Patients' Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme, which helps people living in isolated areas to meet travel and accommodation costs when required to travel more than 200 km to consult the nearest suitable specialist.

Aids for Disabled People

26 May 1984: The Minister for Health announced an emergency grant of $3.8 million for the Program of Aids for Disabled People, bringing the total grant for 1983-84 to $10.9 million.

21 August 1984: The Federal Government allocated $11.1 million in 1984-85 for the program of aids for disabled people, to provide specified aids to increase the level of independence of disabled people in domestic situations who are not eligible for assistance under existing Commonwealth or State government programs.

13 September 1984: The Minister for Health announced that the National Health Act is to be amended to allow the Commonwealth to pay for the maintenance of privately purchased wireless hearing aids and associated equipment. Steps were being taken to ensure that the National Acoustic Laboratories would be better able to meet community demands for the devices supplied by the Commonwealth.

2 November 1984: The Minister for Health announced that the teletext and videotex decoding devices for television sets would be exempted from sales tax for people with medically-certified impaired hearing.
Professional Education and Training

29 May 1984: The Minister for Health and the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs announced the establishment of an inter-departmental committee to examine the question of nurse education.

21 August 1984: The Federal Government allocated $280 000 to establish an Australian Medical Council, with effect from 1 January 1986, to accredit Australian medical schools and courses, to secure uniform approaches to registration of medical practitioners and to assess the acceptability of overseas basic qualifications.

24 August 1984: The Federal Government announced its support in principle for the transfer of nurse education to colleges of advanced education. Subject to agreement with the states and territories as to satisfactory transition and cost-sharing arrangements, the last intake into hospital-based courses would occur in 1990, with transfer completed by 1993. This decision followed consideration by Cabinet of an inter-departmental committee report on registered nurse education which considered costs, and health and education issues, as well as status of women and employment and industrial relations issues which could arise from the transfer.

25 October 1984: The Minister for Health announced a $10 000 grant to enable all haemophiliacs in Australia to be tested for a virus implicated with AIDS.

18 November 1984: State Ministers gave support to the decision by Federal Government to provide up to $2.7 million in 1984-85 towards the full cost of blood screening to be undertaken by the Red Cross on the introduction of the AIDS screening test. $300 000 would be provided for the setting up of a national reference centre at Fairfield Hospital in Melbourne to establish a laboratory as the centre of expertise for AIDS monitoring, screening tests and quality control programs. The States agreed to provide information on AIDS sufferers to a national register of AIDS to be set up by the Commonwealth.

12 October 1984: The Minister for Health announced a grant of $7.266 million to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners to enable the College to continue its family medicine program during 1984-85.

22 February 1985: Assent was given to the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 1984.

AIDS

7 June 1984: The Minister for Health announced grants of more than $110 000 to support projects in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, on research into acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

23 October 1984: The Minister for Health announced a $10 000 grant to enable all haemophiliacs in Australia to be tested for a virus implicated with AIDS.

18 November 1984: State Ministers gave support to the decision by Federal Government to provide up to $2.7 million in 1984-85 towards the full cost of blood screening to be undertaken by the Red Cross on the introduction of the AIDS screening test. $300 000 would be provided for the setting up of a national reference centre at Fairfield Hospital in Melbourne to establish a laboratory as the centre of expertise for AIDS monitoring, screening tests and quality control programs. The States agreed to provide information on AIDS sufferers to a national register of AIDS to be set up by the Commonwealth.

12 October 1984: The Minister for Health announced that Miss Ita Buttrose would chair the AIDS Advisory Committee which had been established to provide two-way communication between the Federal Government and the Australian community on AIDS and its implications.

Aboriginal Health

3 July 1984: Janet Layton, the first Aboriginal woman and the third Aborigine to secure a Second Division position in the Commonwealth Public Service, was appointed Assistant Director-General in charge of the Aboriginal Health Branch.

21 August 1984: A total of $36.2 million was allocated in the Budget to Aboriginal health programs.

31 August 1984: The Minister for Health announced that a consultative conference would be held in September between Department of Health officers and delegates from Aboriginal medical services and the National Aboriginal and Islander Health Organisation, to discuss ways of improving delivery of health services to the Aboriginal community.

Health Research

15 July 1985: The Minister for Health announced grants for health research in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia, as part of an allocation to research totalling $272 889 in Australia, under the Health Service Research and Development Grants Scheme administered by the Department of Health.

17 August 1984: The Minister of Health announced further health research grants for New South Wales and Victoria, and a grant for research in Australia.

21 August 1984: The establishment of an Australian Institute of Health was announced by the Minister for Health, to conduct research and studies into a wide range of health issues, with the Government providing $400 000 in 1984-85.
21 August 1984: A total of $44.2 million was allocated in the Budget to medical research by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC).

29 October 1984: The Minister for Health announced Commonwealth funding of more than $45 million in the form of NH&MRC grants for 1985, of which $26 million would go to individual project grant applications for 734 projects.

Pharmaceutical Benefits

21 August 1984: The Federal Government granted an across-the-board price increase to pharmaceutical manufacturers and wholesalers, equivalent to five per cent, to take effect from 1 November.

Register of Medical Devices

21 August 1984: The Minister for Health announced that a register of medical devices on sale in Australia would be established, with information on related problems being collated and disseminated by the Department. Evaluation of the safety and effectiveness of high-risk items prior to marketing and the development of testing facilities was envisaged, with a Budget allocation of $1.3 million.

Diseases Control Program

17 September 1984: The Minister for Health and the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs invited the participation of State and Territory authorities in a national drive to bring measles under control by 1988, with complete eradication as soon as possible thereafter.

24 September 1984: The Minister for Health announced that the Commonwealth would provide, for the control of mosquito-borne diseases, on a dollar-for-dollar basis to New South Wales $103 000, to South Australia $36 000, to Queensland $153 000, to Western Australia $54 000 and to the Northern Territory $30 000.

2 October 1984: The Minister for Health announced that $208 000 had been provided for control of mosquito-borne diseases in Victoria.
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Diary of Social Legislation and Policy

This is the fifth in a series of annual publications produced by the Australian Institute of Family Studies in co-operation with the Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, University of Melbourne, (until the 1983 issue), the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research, Melbourne (from this issue), and the Social Welfare Research Centre, University of New South Wales.

The Diary summarises the legislative and administrative changes made by the Commonwealth government in the areas of social security and welfare, employment, family law, immigration, housing and health, and the main policy changes at State level in the fields of social security, welfare and adoption, during 1984.

Other Diaries in this ongoing series are for the years 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983.

The series follows the format of earlier diaries within the books titled Public expenditure and social policy in Australia (Vols I and II) prepared by Helen Ferber of the Institute of Economic and Social Research, which cover the years 1972 to 1978. Since there is a year's gap between the end of the Public expenditures volumes and the beginning of the present series, each of the first three issues summarises one aspect of social policy for the year 1979. The 1980 Diary covers immigration; that for 1981 covers social security and welfare; and the 1982 issue covers health.

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The *Diary of Social Legislation and Policy* summarises the legislative and administrative changes made by the Commonwealth government in social security and welfare, employment, family law, reproductive technology, immigration, housing, and health. The main policy changes at State level for social security and welfare, adoption and reproductive technology are also covered.

The *Diary*, produced since 1980 as part of a continuing series, is compiled as a co-operative venture by three research institutions whose work encompasses these areas of policy concern.

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