

## Changes in the Department

On 5 April this year, the then Minister for Communications, Mr Ian Sinclair, announced a major reorganisation of his Department, coinciding with its move to new quarters in Canberra.

He said the reorganisation was necessary to enable the Department to continue to carry out its duties efficiently in the rapidly changing and expanding field of communications.

Taken in the context of three inquiries then underway - into telecommunications, cable and subscription television and Australia Post - the Minister said the reorganisation would assist the Government in its considerations of technological change in communications and the social consequences of these for all Australians.

### DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS REORGANISATION

The new Department of Communications organisation consists of five Divisions. Brief descriptions of divisional duties and the names of the First Assistant Secretaries who head them are:

#### **Broadcasting Division**

Mr P.B. Westerway

Advise on development of broadcasting policies and the planning, operation and administration of the Australian broadcasting system; establish technical policies and planning proposals for the development of new broadcasting services.

#### **Communications Development Division**

Mr R.T. Lord

Develop and analyse policy options for the provision of future communications services; relate demand for services to potential means of supply; develop standards for the introduction of new technologies.

#### **Corporate Policy and Projects Division**

Mr A.E. Guster

Analyse policy issues affecting communications and undertake major projects where more than one communications system is involved; carry out the financial and administrative management of the Department.

#### **Radio Frequency Management Division**

Mr M.R. Ramsay

This Division's duties are unchanged. They include: advising on major policy issues affecting use of the radio frequency spectrum; developing policies, systems, equipment and resource plans to enable DOC to carry out its responsibilities in radiocommunications.

#### **Space, Telecommunications and Postal Policy Division**

Mr V.J. Kane

Advise on issues relating to the provision of postal, internal and overseas telecommunications and satellite communications services.

Responsibility for the Department's involvement in the National Communications Satellite System was, at the time of Mr Sinclair's announcement, to remain with Mr Guster who previously headed the Satellite Policy and Coordination Division.

This Division and the old Broadcasting Development Division, Broadcasting Planning and Operations Division and Policy Division have been abolished. Duties of the former Task Force on Broadcasting Development had been absorbed by the new Communications Development Division, the announcement said.