

## Government publications

The Australian Government Publishing Service — AACOBs Liaison Committee met in May for the first time in nearly two years. During this time AGPS has adopted a corporate plan aimed at improving internal efficiency and is now hoping to be able to introduce a number of changes:

• production of cataloguing copy to a higher standard

• publication of a forward list of those titles AGPS will be marketing

• major changes to AGPS financing. At present this is from an appropriation, plus a publications trust account, plus a government printing trust account. It is planned that from 1 July 1986 there be a single trust account with the appropriation one line within that. This will give AGPS much greater flexibility and enhance its ability to make cost recoveries to the government. The result should be a much more market-oriented publisher.

The Secretary of the Committee carried out a survey of libraries to seek comments on the AGPS Annual catalogue. Many responses were critical of its bulk (and hence price), and saw a need for improved indexing. With the likely

changes to AGPS financing, which until now has contained the format of its catalogues, and a new Director, Publishing, suggestions for improvements to all the AGPS catalogues would be welcome.

A second survey of libraries canvassed titles thought suitable for microform publication. Many libraries wished to continue to receive hardcopy, seeing microform suitable mainly for backsets or second sets. Titles suggested more than ten times for possible microform publication were:

- reports and associated material from Royal Commissions and Parliamentary Committees

- Parliamentary papers (including the H.R. Misc. series, currently not readily available)

- Commonwealth of Australia *Gazette*.

Copies of the brief reports on these two surveys are available from me or from the Secretary of the Committee (Michael Harrington, AGPS, GPO Box 84, Canberra ACT 2601).

Finally, the AGPS *Style manual* is being completely rewritten. Preparation has been delayed, and publication is now hoped for in early 1988.

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