

Prime Minister of Australia | *John Howard*

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Speeches

12 August 2005

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER
THE HON JOHN HOWARD MP
MINISTERIAL CONVERSATIONS LUNCH SEMINAR,
THE GREAT HALL, PARLIAMENT HOUSE**

E&OE...

Thank you very much Commissioner, ladies and gentlemen. I start by congratulating the Public Service Commission on the innovation which is represented by these Ministerial Conversations. This is the first time in the almost 31 years, or more than 31 years, that I've been a member of parliament, nine and half years as Prime Minister and then previously in other ministerial capacities, and as Leader of the Opposition, that I've actually had the opportunity of addressing in a serious gathering the interaction between the political and advisory arms of the Government, and the opportunity to engage in this kind of discourse, and I think it is a wonderful innovation. And if it does lead to an even better understanding of the respective roles within the broad Government firmament of the political arm of government, and the advisory one, then that will be a great thing for the people of Australia.

I do start my remarks by genuinely paying tribute to the quality of the Australian Public Service. You may think well he would say that, wouldn't he? A natural diplomatic, rather meaningless thing to say at the commencement of an address, but one of things that I have been able to do, especially in the time that I've been Prime Minister, is to see something of the operation of the higher levels of bureaucracies in other parts of the world, particularly but not only in the United States, the United Kingdom and New Zealand. And whilst not for a moment suggesting that the quality of the Public Service in those three countries and others is inferior or poor, it is fair to say that the quality of the Public Service in this country is the equal of, or better than any, in my contact with them elsewhere in the world.

But that remark is also based upon some nine and half years





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The Senior Executive Leadership Capability Framework defines the capabilities required of senior executive leaders in the Australian Public Service (APS). The suite of development programs and services provided by the APS Commission have been specifically designed to reflect this Framework and enhance the performance of the APS.

For further information about any Senior Executive development programs please contact our Programme Manager on 02 6272 3512.

New - Ministerial Conversations Series

Ministerial Conversations will give agency heads and senior executives across the Service the opportunity to hear directly from Ministers on their current policy perspectives, and their expectations of the public service in implementing Government policy in a whole-of-government context.

The next guest speakers in the series for 2005 are:

- The Hon Kevin Andrews MP, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, breakfast session 7.00am-9.00 am on 26 October, The Windsor, Melbourne - to register for this event please complete this registration form and fax to 02 6272 4891.
- The Hon Peter Costello, Treasurer, lunchtime session 11.00am-2.00pm on 2 November, Parliament House, Canberra - to register for this event please complete this registration form and fax to 02 6272 4891.

The Commission will shortly send out the invitations to attend the seminars.

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