



**Commonwealth** Bank

## Media Release

### **COMMONWEALTH BANK LAUNCHES NEW SERVICE FOR GOVERNMENT DIRECT ENTRY PAYMENTS**

**Sydney, 7 March 2002:** The Commonwealth Bank of Australia is pleased to announce the launch of a new Direct Entry payments service which provides access to enhanced future dated payments arrangements recently adopted by the Australian Payments Clearing Association (APCA) for government entities.

Under the new arrangements, Government payment files will be exchanged between financial institutions on the day prior to the payment date for payment of recipients early on the morning of the payment date

It enables Commonwealth Government agencies banking with the Commonwealth Bank now or in the future to comply with the Department of Finance and Administration's Instructions for Transaction Bankers, and will also improve cash-flow management. It will also be available to State Governments. Usage of this service is subject to the Bank's eligibility criteria.

Mr Bruce Munro, Head of Institutional and Business Services' Transaction Services Division said "The development of the Bank's new service for Government Direct Entry payments is a good example of the Commonwealth Bank's leadership in electronic payments processing, and in developing solutions to meet the specific needs of various client segments, including Commonwealth and State government clients".

Traditionally, processing of future dated government payment files has been the monopoly preserve of the Reserve Bank of Australia. New services such as this provide government agencies with a choice of providers for their banking services, with commercial focus and a greater range of products and services than has previously been available to them.

Commonwealth Bank's new service is an essential component of developing a competitive market for government transaction processing.

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