


Update

PSA Inquiry into Computer software Pricing

On 22 January 1992, the Price Surveillance Authority ("PSA") commenced a nine month policy inquiry into Australia's \$2 billion computer industry. Preliminary PSA investigations have shown that computer software prices are, on average, 70% higher in Australia than in the USA. The PSA will investigate the effect

of these prices on competition, efficiency and the supply of computer software in Australia. Implications for competitiveness of Australian industry in world markets will also be examined. The Inquiry will consider the effect of the restrictive import provisions of the *Copyright Act* on the pricing, production and distribution of software, an issue which is also currently under investigation

by the Copyright Law Review Committee.

The PSA will commence public hearings into software prices in April 1992. Interested parties are encouraged to attend, give evidence and make written submissions. It is expected that any changes to the software industry arising out of the Inquiry will not occur before mid-1993. 



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