The Ionospheric Prediction Service (IPS) was formed in 1947 to provide monthly prediction services for High Frequency (HF) radio, in particular to support HF communications with the United Kingdom. It was quickly recognised that to be effective such a service also had to provide advice when ionospheric storms prevented HF communications from taking place. With the advent of the International Geophysical Year (IGY) short-term forecasts were also required for research programs and the task of supplying the Australian input to these was given to Frank Cook, of IPS, while Jack Turner, also of IPS, supervised the generation of ionospheric maps to support high latitude HF communications. These two important IGY activities formed the platform on which all future IPS services would be built. This paper reviews the development of the Australian Space Weather Forecast Centre, which arose from these early origins and is part of the current IPS.