



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 6

8 December 1972

SALES TAX ON ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES

The Federal Government has lifted the sales tax on oral contraceptives as from today.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, made the decision after consultations with senior officers of the Federal Treasury and the Taxation Department.

A special meeting of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee called for today agreed with Mr. Whitlam's suggestion that oral contraceptives prescribed by a doctor would become available as pharmaceutical benefits.

Sales tax until today on all contraceptives was levied at a rate of $27\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Mr. Whitlam, in announcing today's decision, said that enabling legislation would be introduced when Federal Parliament resumed next year.

The legislation would make the exemption of the sales tax retrospective to today.

However, pending passage of the legislation, the tax will not be collected.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.