

74/23A



PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No. 187
18 February 1974

PRE -SCHOOL AND DAY CARE FACILITIES

The Prime Minister announced today that the Government had asked the Social Welfare Commission to look at the development of Pre-School and Day Care opportunities from the Welfare aspect.

The Commission has been asked to make proposals consistent with the Government's policy commitments and the ALP Party Platform on Pre-School Opportunities and Day Care. It will report before the preparation of the 1974/75 Budget.

The Priorities Review Staff have also been offered the opportunity to develop thoughts on these programs at the same time.

This represents an extension of the work already done by the Pre-Schools Committee into the wider welfare area. The Social Welfare Commission will collaborate closely with the Pre-Schools Committee, the Department of Education, the Schools Commission, the Priorities Review Staff and other interested bodies.

The Prime Minister stressed that the sum of \$10m which had been contemplated for allocation to Pre-School education purposes during the later half of 1973/74 would be made available. He had written to the Premiers in January asking them for their advice on arrangements for expenditure of this. The Prime Minister has now said that the Government will determine the basis for the use of this money as soon as proposals from the States have been received and considered. He gave an assurance that Priorities Review Staff program for which grants are made during this financial year will be eligible for continuing support.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.