



PRIME MINISTER

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LIVING STANDARDS

The National Accounts for September which were released last week include statistics which provide a further illustration of how Australian living standards have risen since the Government was elected two years ago.

The National Accounts show that real average earnings were two to three percent higher in the September quarter than they were in December 1975.

The previous National Accounts for the June quarter showed that real household disposal income rose by 1.4 percent in 1976-77.

Both trends are supported by the 5.2 percent increase in real consumption expenditure since the Government came to office.

These statistics all mean that the people of Australia are better off today after two years of proper economic management, fiscal restraint and anti-inflationary economic policies, than they were under Labor's policies of unrestrained expenditure and high taxation.

This rise in living standards is under threat from the ALP which if elected to office would repeal the February tax cuts.

These tax cuts are worth a total of \$26.7 million a week in disposable income for all Australian taxpayers.

The economic recovery which is now underway would be greatly damaged if this major aspect of the 1977-78 Budget strategy were to be reversed.

At the very least an ALP Government would increase inflation, retard development and stop the economy growing.

On the basis of the forecasting of the economic newsletter Syntec, which has just been sent to subscribers, the economic consequences of a Labor Government would be even more immediately drastic and even more serious.
