



PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P.J. KEATING, MP GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR CHRISTMAS APPEALS

When I launched the St Vincent de Paul's Christmas Appeal in Bankstown on 27 November, I said the Government would look at ways of getting extra assistance to those families who are doing it hard this Christmas.

I am pleased to announce today that the Government will match dollar for dollar cash donations by the Australian public to major voluntary agencies for their Christmas appeals.

We will build upon the generous contributions of Australians to material aid organisations like the Smith Family, St Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army.

These contributions enable agencies to provide tangible assistance such as toys and presents for children, food hampers and Christmas dinners to thousands of Australians so that they can enjoy the sort of Christmas that most of us take for granted.

This is a time when some money to help can go a long way. We call upon the Australian people to open their hearts and their pockets and give to help those in need this Christmas.

SYDNEY

6 December 1992