



**PRIME MINISTER**

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 32

10 January 1973

ABORIGINAL ADVANCEMENT

The Australian Government decided today to allocate a further \$10.85 million for Aboriginal Advancement projects in 1972/73.

Federal Cabinet decided that most of the extra allocation would be divided to expansion of advancement programs through the States, by way of supplementary Grants under Section 96 of the Constitution. The decision followed a submission to Cabinet by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Bryant.

Grants totalling \$14.5 million in 1972/73 were authorised by the States Grants (Aboriginal Advancement) Act 1972 but a substantially greater sum could have been used particularly on housing and on special works projects.

Apart from grants for the expansion program through the States, funds are needed to meet other urgent proposals involving direct funding by the Commonwealth. Included among these is the cost of implementing, during the rest of 1972/73, an A.L.P. policy undertaking to meet all legal costs of Aborigines appearing before the courts.

It is estimated that \$850,000 will be needed to meet these costs during the rest of the current financial year.

A sum of \$1.5 million which was pledged to Western Australia for Aboriginal housing on December 11 will be part of the extra \$10.85 million allocation.