



4/1

PRIME MINISTER

91
Press Statement No. 89

14 May, 1973

ACCOMMODATION FOR SPECIAL MIGRANT CLASSES IN SCHOOLS

The Australian Government will provide funds under the Child Migrant Education Program to help State and independent schools provide emergency accommodation where this is necessary to allow adequate special migrant instruction to take place.

This reverses a decision of the previous Government to exclude the provision of accommodation from the Commonwealth program.

Cabinet today approved a submission from the Minister for Education, Mr Beasley, and the Minister for Immigration, Mr Grassby.

These funds will be additional to those already being provided to pay the salaries of the necessary additional teachers and to purchase special language teaching equipment for this program.

A recent survey in schools of high migrant density in Melbourne revealed serious inadequacies in the conditions under which some migrant children are receiving special English instruction and which are precluding a substantial proportion from receiving any special instruction at all. Only 20 per cent of migrant children who needed special language instruction were getting it. Lack of suitable accommodation was identified as a major deficiency.

The additional funds for accommodation purposes will be provided over the two year period 1973/74 and 1974/75. The Government will then review the position.

Consultations will be arranged without delay with State and independent school authorities to define their needs in detail.