



PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No. 166

21 December 1973

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS - GRANTS FOR CRAFTSMEN

The Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, has approved grants totalling \$199,481 for the crafts.

The grants, which cover all States, were recommended by the Crafts Board of the Australian Council for the Arts.

The Chairman of the Crafts Board, Mrs. Marea Gazzard, said that the grants were an expression of the Government's interest in the crafts as a means of enriching the quality of life for a broad range of people.

Mrs. Gazzard said that the growth of the crafts in recent years has been remarkable, especially in the involvement of young people, who found satisfaction in the use of traditional skills as an alternative to a mechanized way of life.

On the other hand, good craftsmanship was the basis of good industrial design, which was vital to Australia's export industry. Other countries had invested heavily in building design skills, and Australia was just beginning to realise their potential.

Among the grants is one of \$6,000 to Greg Smallman of Newcastle, N.S.W., a classical guitar maker. Formerly a motor mechanic, his concert guitars have been described by leading musical authorities as "equal to the best in the world".

Working under difficulties including a lack of air-conditioning for his small workshop, he has nevertheless produced instruments eagerly sought by leading players. One of his guitars will be presented to Alirio Diaz, the celebrated concert guitarist, when he tours Australia in February.