



PRIME MINISTER

10 May 1974

FREE ISSUE OF TREES AND SHRUBS TO SERVICEMEN IN QUEENSLAND

The Prime Minister announced today that the Australian Government would assist married servicemen occupying Housing Agreement homes in Queensland to establish and landscape their gardens by providing trees, shrubs, lawn seed, top soil and rotary hoeing free of charge.

Mr. Whitlam said that these items were normally provided for all Service-owned married quarters completed after 1 July 1970 and also in dwellings allocated to servicemen under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreements. However, the Queensland Government had not agreed to accept this provision in the homes it builds for servicemen.

The new provisions will apply to the original tenants of houses completed after 1 July 1970, the gardens of which are presently not established.

The Prime Minister said that the Australian Government's decision to provide landscaping assistance directly to servicemen occupying Housing Agreement homes in Queensland followed the refusal of the Queensland Government to bear the cost of providing these amenities for Australian servicemen.

Mr. Whitlam recalled that he had raised the matter of providing trees and shrubs for the occupants of Army married quarters in Queensland with the then Minister for the Army, Mr. Peacock, as long ago as September 1971.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.