

NOTES FOR THE PRIME MINISTER
FOR AUSTRALIAN HARDCOURT TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS
AT GYMPIE

30 NOVEMBER 1974

1. THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN MANY INITIATIVES IN TOURISM AND RECREATION TO WIDEN AUSTRALIANS' LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES. IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS 120 GRANTS TOTALLING \$4 MILLION HAVE BEEN MADE TO SPORTING AND RECREATION PROJECTS IN ALL STATES. QUEENSLAND CITIES AND TOWNS HAVE RECEIVED \$536,200. HERE IN GYMPIE WE ARE SPENDING \$23,000 ON A SPORTS RESERVE.

2. TENNIS HAS HAD A REMARKABLE RESURGENCE OF POPULARITY IN RECENT YEARS. THIS IS LARGELY DUE TO SKILLED PROMOTION AND THE GREAT FREQUENCY OF OPEN TOURNAMENTS IN WHICH THE WORLD'S BEST PLAYERS COMPETE. OLD-FASHIONED DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS HAVE BEEN REMOVED, MAKING THE GAME MORE EXCITING, MORE COMPETITIVE AND MORE SPECTACULAR.

3. AUSTRALIA HAS ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF THE WORLD'S TOP TENNIS NATIONS. WE WANT OUR YOUNGER PLAYERS TO DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS AND ENJOY THE GAME IN THE BEST POSSIBLE CONDITIONS. BY GIVING PEOPLE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPORT WE HOPE TO ENCOURAGE HIGHER STANDARDS OF PLAY AND BUILD A HEALTHIER NATION.