



PRIME MINISTER

3 December 1974

QUEENSLAND HOSPITAL GRANTS

Following a question to Dr Everingham in the House of Representatives today, the Prime Minister has released details of new Australian Government grants to ease Queensland's hospital problems.

Mr Whitlam said he had written to Mr Bjelke-Petersen on 30 November giving details of decisions arising out of the most recent meeting of the Joint Hospitals Works Council for Queensland.

The Queensland Minister for Health has been advised that an initial Australian Government Grant of \$5.151 million has been made available for the approved hospital program in Queensland for 1974/75.

Mr Whitlam said that of this sum, \$2.678 million was for hospital projects already being planned or constructed. Among projects that could be assisted are Stage II of the Cairns Hospital, construction of a medical and services block at Rockhampton, extensions to Mt Isa Hospital and new obstetric facilities at Mt Gravatt as the first stage of a new teaching hospital. A grant of \$200,000 towards construction of a new dental hospital in South Brisbane has been included for this financial year. This does not include \$14,000 for Sandgate Medical and Dental Clinic which is not in the hospital grounds.

Mr Whitlam said that \$1.023 million would be provided towards psychiatric services. A main feature would be accommodation for intellectually handicapped persons at the Rockhampton and Baillie Henderson (Toowoomba) Hospitals and Basil Stafford Training Centre at Brisbane.

Mr Whitlam said that many Queensland hospitals were in need of substantial upgrading and re-equipping, and \$520,000 had been allocated for major equipment purposes and \$400,000 would go towards ward refurbishing.

General hospital projects under construction such as a new ward block at Southport Hospital and new outpatient facilities at Chermside will benefit from the remaining funds.