



**PRIME MINISTER**

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 394

4 December 1974

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

The Prime Minister today tabled in the House of Representatives a statement prepared for the information of the Parliament on International Women's Year 1975.

This statement indicates the priorities and considerations proposed for determining the direction of the Government's program and is intended to stimulate discussion both within the Parliament and in the community.

The Prime Minister said that costed submissions so far received total around \$3.5 million. Some of the submissions were in respect of projects which fall within the responsibility of existing government departments or other institutions. In such cases the National Advisory Committee would not act as an alternative funding agency but as a catalyst for positive response from these departments and agencies. The Prime Minister added that on the advice of the Committee the Government would be making direct grants in respect of other projects; these grants would be made progressively throughout the Year and he expected to be able to announce the first set of grants within the next week. These grants would reflect the areas of greatest need as determined by the Committee. However submissions not initially funded would be kept under continuous review during the Year.

Since December 1972 this Government - more than any previous national government in the history of Australia - has made a conscious and genuine attempt to overcome the decades of neglect from which women have suffered, to give to women and to men the ability to freely choose that way of life best suited to them individually.

International Women's Year 1975 provides an opportunity to stand back and assess what has already been achieved as well as enabling the initiation of further programs based on our deep commitment to basic human rights.