



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 422

27 December 1974

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETING IMMEDIATE CASH NEEDS OF PEOPLE EVACUATED FROM DARWIN

On his arrival at Perth Airport this afternoon, the Prime Minister released details of measures being taken to meet the special needs of the people who are being evacuated from Darwin.

He said that a meeting of representatives of relevant Departments had been held in Canberra this morning to discuss relief measures and co-ordination. The Minister for Social Security, Mr. Hayden, had provided details of the arrangements involving immediate cash needs of those evacuated from Darwin.

The Prime Minister said: "We have decided that the Department of Social Security will make available to all Darwin residents who are evacuated amounts equivalent to two weeks special benefit of \$31 a week plus \$5.50 a week for each child.

These payments are being made as an extraordinary measure designed to assist people to meet their immediate urgent money needs for daily living.

The payments will be made at the seven emergency centres that are being set up in the State mainland capital cities and at Alice Springs and Mt. Isa, as well as from metropolitan and country Social Security offices."

CANBERRA, A.C.T.