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PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No. 465
11 March 1975

PENSIONS

Cabinet agreed today to a further step in the abolition of the means test for age pensions, and on an increase in all pension rates.

As promised in the September 1974 Budget, the means test will be abolished for people aged 70 to 74. There will be a three months period of grace in which claims may be lodged without loss of arrears. People 75 and over were granted exemption from a means test by my Government in 1973.

In accordance with its policy of increasing pensions twice a year, the Government proposes an increase of \$5 a week in the standard rate of pension, with proportionate adjustments for other social security and repatriation payments.

Both measures will come into effect, if accepted by the Parliament, on the first pension day in May.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.