



## PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT No. 549

27 August 1975

### MEDIBANK HOSPITALS AGREEMENT, QUEENSLAND

The Prime Minister today signed the Queensland Medibank Hospitals Agreement.

It is expected that the Queensland Premier, Mr Bjelke Petersen, will sign the agreement on behalf of his Government by the end of this week.

The signing of the agreement will mean that the Medibank Hospital Arrangements will be operative in Queensland as from 1 September. Queensland's public hospitals already provide free standard ward treatment, including medical services provided by salaried and sessionally paid doctors.

The funds that Queensland will receive under the agreement will materially assist the Queensland Government in upgrading its hospitals and health services generally.

Under the Medibank Agreement the cost of operating Queensland's public hospitals system will be shared on a 50/50 basis between the Australian and Queensland Governments.

Australian Government expenditure under the agreement with Queensland is estimated at \$90 million for the period 1 September 1975 to 30 June 1976.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.