



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

25 OCTOBER 1978

AUSTRALIAN BALLET DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Prime Minister announced today it had been decided that contributions by the State of Victoria to the Australian Ballet Development Fund would now qualify for matching contributions by the Commonwealth.

When the original announcement of Commonwealth support for the Fund was made, the Government offered to contribute up to \$500,000 to the Australian Ballet Development Fund on the basis of \$1 for each \$1 contributed by State Governments other than Victoria. This decision was taken as an inducement to the other States to contribute to the Fund and because of the substantial benefits which Victoria would derive from having the Ballet centred in Melbourne.

Following representations on the matter, the Commonwealth has decided to include contributions from Victoria within the matching subsidy arrangements. This will apply if contributions to the Fund by the other States do not total \$500,000. However, the maximum Commonwealth contribution of \$500,000 will remain unaltered.

The Prime Minister said the Government hoped the revised funding arrangements would help ensure rapid progress in building suitable headquarters for the Australian Ballet and the Australian Ballet School.

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