



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

5 DECEMBER 1978

PRIME MINISTER PROPOSES JOINT COMMONWEALTH/STATES

ACTION TRANSITION FROM SCHOOL TO WORK

The Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, has written to the Premiers proposing joint Commonwealth/States action in education to help young people in the transition from school to work.

Mr Fraser announced today he had written to the Premiers to tell them that the Commonwealth Minister for Education, Senator Carrick, would raise the issue at the special meeting of the Australian Education Council (AEC) in Melbourne on December 8 and 9.

Mr Fraser said he believed all Governments should look to see what more can be done to alleviate youth unemployment.

Many young people still left school without being adequately prepared for the world of work, Mr Fraser said.

Longer-term changes to the process of schooling could involve modification of secondary education and modification of primary courses to help students achieve greater success at secondary level.

As an example of possible measures, the Prime Minister suggested alternative courses at secondary level to meet the needs of students who would leave school early for various reasons.

Similar courses could be established for young people 16 to 18 years old who had already left school. This would be an experimental development of courses outside the school systems, possibly through the use of the technical and further education (TAFE) systems.

Another possibility could be the establishment of intensive courses during the summer holidays for school-leavers who were unable to secure employment. These courses could concentrate on labour market information, careers guidance and vocational counselling.

There was also the need to ensure that more effective cooperation and coordination was achieved between secondary schools and the TAFE systems, for instance, through the systematic development of linked courses.