



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

MONDAY, 28 APRIL, 1980

### WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE

The Prime Minister, Mr. Malcolm Fraser, and the Victorian Premier, Mr. R.J. Hamer, today jointly announced a grant of \$200,000 for a feasibility study for a new building for the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

Half the grant will be provided by the Commonwealth Government and half by the Victorian Government. The grant, which is in the context of provision of facilities for medical research in Victoria, will be made forthwith.

The Prime Minister, who visited the Institute today, and was given an exposition of its work by the Director, Professor Sir Gustav Nossall, said it was a matter of great pride to Australians that the Institute was amongst the world's foremost research bodies in the field of immunology. This was reaffirmed only last year by an expert international scientific review Committee sponsored by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

However, the Institute's capacity to contribute further outstanding scientific research, particularly towards prevention and treatment of cancer was dependent largely on additional modern laboratory facilities.

The Prime Minister said further consideration of a new building and the method of funding it would be given when the results of the study were available.