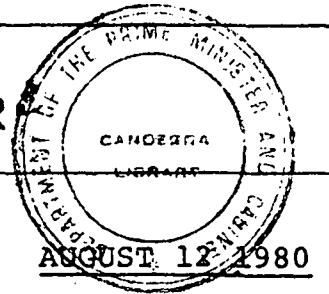




**PRIME MINISTER**



FOR MEDIA

SPECIAL GRANT FOR QUEENSLAND

Subject to the passage of the necessary legislation, Queensland will receive a special grant of \$6.7 million in 1980-81. The grant is a general purpose payment and is in addition to the State's tax sharing entitlement.

The special grant for Queensland in 1980-81 was recommended by the Commonwealth Grants Commission and represents a completion grant in respect of 1978-79. Although Queensland has applied for a special grant in respect of 1980-81, it has indicated that it is not seeking an advance grant. Accordingly, the Grants Commission has made no recommendation with respect to an advance grant payment in 1980-81. The effect of this is that the actual payment in 1980-81 will be smaller than has typically been the case in recent years.

The total general revenue assistance paid to Queensland in 1979-80 (i.e., payments of tax sharing entitlement plus special grant) was almost \$965 million. On present estimates corresponding payments in 1980-81 are expected to increase by about 12.5 per cent.

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