



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

1 October 1980

### CONCERN FOR FAMILIES

The Liberal National Country Party Government is committed to policies which have the utmost concern for Australian families.

Such programmes as the Family Allowance Scheme, costing about \$1 billion a year; the doubling of the spouse rebate for single income families; and the improved Homes Savings Grant Scheme, introduced in 1977, underline that concern.

The Homes Savings Grant Scheme has now been greatly improved again.

Having in Mind Sydney in particular, where house values have risen considerably, we will be lifting home value limits up to a maximum of \$70,000 and, for families with children, the maximum grant will be increased to \$3000.

The Government is also showing particular concern for families in need with a range of support services that developed during the International Year of the Child.

We are now going to establish crisis accommodation for families in distress.

With the co-operation of the States and voluntary organisations, we will be establishing a National Children's Foundation to develop a greater public awareness of the extent of child abuse and to help tackle the problems of child abuse.

This is a serious social problem that is often unrecognised .

Contrary to claims made by the Labor Party, family living standards have risen over the past five years.

The Treasurer has made it quite plain that, on broad-based measures since 1975/6, real private consumption expenditure per capita has risen by 4.3% and real household disposable income per head has increased by 1.9%.

~~Tangible proof of improved living standards is shown in the~~ increasing numbers of telephone connections and motor vehicle ownership.

In 1975-76 there were 366 cars and station wagons per thousand of population. In 1978-79 this number had risen to 395.

In 1975-76 there were 267 telephone services per thousand of population. In 1978-79 there were 310.

In 1975-76 electricity production in Australia was 5,500 kilowatt hours per head; by 1979-80 this production had increased by 20% to 6,600 kilowatt hours per head.

What the Labor Party seems to forget is that the standard of living of Australian families diminished daily under the scourge of inflation.

Labor's expenditure proposals of \$2.5 billion in the areas of employment schemes, housing, health, education, welfare and pensions and the 250 other programmes to which the Labor Party is committed and which had not been costed, would again spark massive inflation reminiscent of the Whitlam years.

Indeed, under the policies proposed by Labor, inflation would again approach 20%. That would represent a tax on all Australian families.

It would appear that the Labor Party are acting on the advice of their own research firm which described swinging voters as ignorant.

The ALP will find that Australian voters have a great deal of commonsense, that they can and do judge what is in the best interests of their families and of Australia.

The Labor Party will find that their vote cannot be bought.