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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

TUESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 1981

ZEEHAN FIRE RELIEF

The Commonwealth Government is to provide financial assistance for the reconstruction of the Scout Hall which was destroyed during the recent tragic fire at Zeehan, in Tasmania.

The Scout Hall is an important public facility in Zeehan and for many years has been the centre point for community activities, particularly youth groups. Its loss has been a major blow to the entire community and the Commonwealth is pleased to join with the State Government in financing the cost of replacing it.

The Commonwealth will be contributing \$3 for every \$1 spent by the State in meeting the cost.

There are still major questions affecting the permanent re-housing of the people of Zeehan to be settled between the Commonwealth and the State of Tasmania.

The Premier has told me that he has formed a committee of officials to examine the question of permanent re-housing. I consider that there is a need for citizen representation on such a group and, accordingly, I have suggested to Premier Lowe that State and Federal Members of Parliament should be added to this Committee.

The Commonwealth is of course contributing to the provision of emergency accommodation in the area through the provision of caravans and the construction of additional facilities in the caravan park established to house fire victims.

I can assure the people of Zeehan that their needs are being carefully examined by the Commonwealth.