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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

The preliminary estimates for unemployment during June, released today, are welcome evidence of continuing strong improvement in the employment situation.

Taken with the results of the May labour force survey, released yesterday, they demonstrate a marked strengthening of the labor market, in line with economic activity.

The Government can take a degree of satisfaction in achieving a sustained turnaround in employment in this country when, worldwide, job prospects are considerably less bright.

Employment growth in Australia, some 2.2 per cent in the 12 months to the end of May this year, is currently running at double the rate of the OECD countries overall, and the continued fall in unemployment in Australia contrasts with the trend of rising unemployment rates in these countries.

This has happened because of the policies the Government has pursued to control inflation and to encourage the private sector to play a larger role in our economy, and so create more real and lasting jobs for Australians.

I am particularly pleased that the fall in unemployment during June was spread across all States and major categories of job-seekers, with significant improvements registered for young people.

(Statement by the Acting Prime Minister,
the Rt. Hon. J.D. Anthony, M.P.)