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## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

MONDAY, AUGUST 10 1981

### SPECIAL GRANTS FOR QUEENSLAND AND THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, announced today that in 1981-82, Queensland would receive special grants of \$58.5 million and the Northern Territory would receive an additional assistance grant of \$20 million. These grants are general purpose revenue payments and are in addition to the grants payable under the States (Tax Sharing and Health Grants) Act 1981.

Mr Fraser said that the special grants for Queensland payable in 1981-82 were recommended by the Commonwealth Grants Commission and comprise an interim grant of \$25 million in respect of 1980-81 and a completion grant of \$33.5 million in respect of 1979-80. The total special grant in respect of 1979-80 will be \$44.5 million; Queensland had already received an advance grant of \$11 million in 1979-80.

Mr Fraser also said that, in the case of the Northern Territory, the Memorandum of Understanding provides phase-in arrangements under which the Territory will receive in 1981-82 either an additional assistance grant of \$20 million or a special grant on the recommendation of the Grants Commission (based on comparisons with the States), whichever is the greater. The only special grant payable to the Northern Territory in 1981-82 recommended by the Commission is a completion grant of \$3.3 million in respect of 1979-80. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, the Territory will therefore be paid in 1981-1982 the additional assistance grant of \$20 million.

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