



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

SATURDAY, 17 JULY 1982

AUSTRALIA'S PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 1985 as "International Youth Year" and deemed the themes of the Year as "Participation, Development and Peace". The Year will aim to emphasise and encourage the role of young people in national achievement and development. While the primary emphasis will be on national activities, the Year will encourage involvement at the international level, particularly in the Asian-Pacific Region. There would also be a significant focusing on activities leading up to 1985, with 1985 to be essentially a year for evaluating and celebrating achievements.

Co-ordination of Australia's participation at the national level in International Youth Year will be the responsibility of the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations. A national Youth Year Secretariat has been established in the Office of Youth Affairs. I will also be asking other Commonwealth Ministers to consider how activities within their portfolios could contribute towards International Youth Year.

I am writing to the State Premiers and the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory to seek their support in developing effective arrangements for the co-ordination of International Youth Year activities at the State and Territory level.

I should stress the important role that non-government bodies will have in the International Youth Year. The National Youth Advisory Group will play a significant role in developing plans for the Year. So too will the Youth Affairs Council of Australia, which has already participated in a recent Asian-Pacific Youth Forum in Fiji to discuss activities having particular interest for the countries of the Region.

The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations would welcome suggestions for possible activities and projects from non-government youth organisations, business, educational and other institutions, and particularly from young people themselves. The success of Australia's participation in International Youth Year depends largely on the willingness of the community as a whole to become involved by sharing in the development and staging of activities.

I am confident that this early start to the planning for International Youth Year will have positive results for the young people of Australia.