

BUDGET INFORMATION PROGRAM

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

An information program aimed at ensuring Australians are aware of benefits they are entitled to under the 1982 Budget will start this weekend.

Television messages, beginning on Sunday night, will highlight the main Budget measures which came into effect this month. They include cuts in personal tax, home loan interest rebates and changes in Social Security benefit conditions. The public will also be alerted to increased assistance to youth through student schemes and work experience programs.

The television messages are designed to alert as many people as possible to their entitlements.

Detailed information about these entitlements will be given in press advertising starting on Monday, and in complementary radio advertisements expected to start the same day.

Supporting the press advertising on housing, information pamphlets on housing will be made available to help people dealing with the public on housing matters be better able to advise their clients.

The information program is expected to cost a total of about \$2 million. It will be conducted jointly by the Treasury and the Departments of Education, Employment and Industrial Relations, Industry and Commerce and Social Security.

The Government believes it has a responsibility to do all it can to ensure that those who should benefit from Budget programs know what to do to claim those benefits - and that this responsibility is even more pressing where the needy and deprived are concerned.

The use of television and radio in the program is in line with recommendations of the Task Force on Departmental Information dealing with disadvantaged persons.

In addition, the need for an information program has been recognised by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Senator Button, and the Opposition Spokesman on Social Welfare, Senator Grimes.

Canberra
12 November 1982