



ACTING

PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

8 JUNE 1983

The Acting Prime Minister, Mr Bowen, today affirmed the Government's commitment to the detailed development of the program of national and international events proposed by the Australian Bicentennial Authority for the celebration of Australia's Bicentenary in 1988.

He said the celebration of the Bicentenary had received strong bipartisan support in the past and he hoped that this would continue.

Mr Bowen emphasised, however, that while the previous Government's commitment of \$166 million (at July 1982 prices) for the 1988 program would stand, there was at this stage no commitment to individual items in the proposed national and international program which had been developed by The Australian Bicentennial Authority.

The emphasis would be on items of lasting benefit to the community and the matter would be subject to consideration by the Government in early 1984 following further development and costing by The Australian Bicentennial Authority and widespread consultation with the community and interest groups.

In the further development of the Program, the Authority has been requested to give particular emphasis to Aboriginal involvement and to aspects of concern to women.

The Authority has also been requested to review the program to examine the question of Commonwealth support for the participation of local government and community groups in the Bicentenary.

Government Departments and Authorities have been requested to work closely with the Authority in the development and implementation of the program.