



PRIME MINISTER

ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. BOB HAWKE, AT THE
OPENING OF THE LAKE MACQUARIE POLICE CITIZENS BOYS' CLUB
1 OCTOBER 1982

I AM DELIGHTED TO BE WITH YOU TODAY TO HELP YOU
CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF YOUR NEW CLUB.

IT GIVES ME PARTICULAR PLEASURE TO BE THE FIRST
PRIME MINISTER TO OPEN SUCH A CLUB IN THE 46 YEARS
SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE FEDERATION OF POLICE
CITIZENS BOYS' CLUBS.

I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE WAY THE LAKE MACQUARIE
POLICE CITIZENS BOYS' CLUB HAS TAPPED INTO THE
EXTENSIVE RESOURCES THAT EXIST WITHIN THIS COMMUNITY.

- THE PROOF OF THE EFFORTS OF THE LAKE MACQUARIE
COMMUNITY ARE BEFORE US TODAY IN THIS BUILDING
WITH ITS MAGNIFICENT FACILITIES.

- THESE EFFORTS PROVIDE A FINE EXAMPLE OF THE
CONSTRUCTIVE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR
THE YOUTH OF LAKE MACQUARIE THAT THE REST OF THE
AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO FOLLOW.

IN THE VERY DIFFICULT ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE
RECENT PAST YOUNG PEOPLE AS A GROUP WERE THE
MOST SERIOUSLY HURT.

- THEY WERE AMONG THE FIRST GROUPS TO BE AFFECTED BY THE RECESSION.

- THEY WERE AMONG THE HARDEST HIT BY THE SURGE OF UNEMPLOYMENT DURING RECENT YEARS.

. AT MAY 1983 THERE WERE 176,800 UNEMPLOYED YOUTH IN THE 15-19 AGE GROUP AND 343,900 UNEMPLOYED IN THE 15-24 AGE GROUP.

THE REDUCTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN ALL CATEGORIES AND MOST ESPECIALLY AMONG YOUTH IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT GOAL OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICIES.

- WE CAN ILL-AFFORD THE LOSS OF SUCH VAST PRODUCTIVE POTENTIAL.

HIGH RATES OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT OF THE KIND CAUSED BY THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES ALSO CARRY SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL COSTS FOR OUR COMMUNITIES.

- A LARGE NUMBER OF ONE GENERATION HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OF THE WORK EXPERIENCE NECESSARY TO EQUIP THEM TO PLAY A PRODUCTIVE PART IN OUR SOCIETY.
- THE FRUSTRATION AND DISAPPOINTMENT OF AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS HAVE ALIENATED SOME FROM THE SYSTEM AND PRODUCED INTOLERABLE TENSIONS BOTH WITHIN FAMILIES AND IN THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

WHILE WE CANNOT REASONABLY EXPECT IN THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE TO RETURN TO THE EXPERIENCE OF THE POSTWAR GENERATION WHERE THE CONVENTIONAL ECONOMY PROVIDED FULL EMPLOYMENT FOR EVERYBODY WHO SOUGHT WORK, WE CAN AND WILL CREATE MORE JOBS.

- THE BEST STIMULUS TO A STRONG AND SUSTAINED GROWTH IN EMPLOYMENT IS THROUGH A GENERAL RECOVERY IN THE ECONOMY.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SOUGHT TO PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK FOR SUCH A RECOVERY THROUGH ITS ECONOMIC POLICIES, INCLUDING THE 1983/84 BUDGET.

- WE ARE ALSO TAKING INITIATIVES SPECIFICALLY INTENDED TO LEAD TO PERMANENT JOBS OR TO PROVIDE SERVICES OF PERMANENT COMMUNITY VALUE.

. AN EXTRA \$300 MILLION IS BEING MADE AVAILABLE FOR DIRECT JOB CREATION IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE STATES UNDER THE COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM. THIS IS EXPECTED TO CREATE UP TO 40,000 JOBS THIS FINANCIAL YEAR AND UP TO 70,000 NEW JOBS IN A YEAR WHEN IT IS FULLY OPERATIONAL.

- A PARTICULAR MATTER WE IN AUSTRALIA SHOULD BE ADDRESSING IS THE FACT THAT TOO FEW OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE STAYING ON IN EDUCATION. OUR RECORD BY COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IS POOR.

. THE PARTICIPATION AND EQUITY PROGRAM WE ARE STARTING IN 1984 WILL HELP, AS ALSO WILL THE 3000 EXTRA PLACES THE GOVERNMENT IS FINANCING AT UNIVERSITIES AND CAE'S NEXT YEAR.

THESE STEPS ARE, HOWEVER, ONLY A BEGINNING. THE GOVERNMENT IS GIVING CLOSE CONSIDERATION TO HOW BEST IT MIGHT FURTHER ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO CONTINUE EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

WE INTEND TO DEVELOP AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO YOUTH POLICIES THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA.

- THE ISSUES THAT AFFECT OUR YOUTH ARE NEITHER ENTIRELY COMMONWEALTH NOR STATE RESPONSIBILITIES.

THEY ARE COMPLEX AND INTERRELATED. THIS WILL REQUIRE EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION.

AS PART OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS, SENATOR RYAN HAS CALLED A MEETING OF ALL STATE AND TERRITORIAL YOUTH AFFAIRS MINISTERS FOR NOVEMBER THIS YEAR.

- THIS IS THE FIRST MEETING OF THOSE MINISTERS.

THE YOUTH AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA, WHICH IS A REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE, HAS RECENTLY PUBLISHED A REPORT COMPILED ON BEHALF OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

- IT DEALS WITH EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT, ACCOMMODATION, HEALTH, LAW AND INCOME SECURITY. ITS PUBLICATION FOLLOWED EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE.

- THE REPORT MADE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONSULTATION PROCESS BY BRINGING THE VIEWS OF YOUTH DIRECTLY TO GOVERNMENT.

STAFF MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES AND DIRECTORS OF POLICE CITIZENS CLUBS HAVE SHOWN THEIR STRONG PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO THE INTERESTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE FOR MANY YEARS.

- AS YOU CAN SEE, WE IN THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT SHARE THAT COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT YOU IN THE EXCELLENT WORK YOU ARE DOING.

THE NEED FOR CONTINUING EFFORTS AND GROWTH BY ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS YOURS IS OBVIOUS.

YOU HAVE A PARTICULAR ROLE TO PLAY AS A MAJOR PROVIDER OF LEISURE ACTIVITIES AND TRAINING AND THAT ROLE IS LIKELY TO BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT AS SOCIETAL CHANGES INFLUENCE THE WAYS AUSTRALIANS WORK AND PLAY.

- IN RECOGNITION OF THAT ROLE THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT HAS GRANTED THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF POLICE CITIZENS YOUTH CLUBS \$27,000 FOR 1983/84.

LEISURE ACTIVITIES ARE IMPORTANT TO ALL OF US.

- THEY IMPROVE OUR ABILITY TO COPE WITH STRESS, IMPROVE FITNESS, REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF CHRONIC DISEASES AND LOWER THE HEALTH COSTS OF INDIVIDUALS AND GOVERNMENTS. THEY CAN ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO FAMILY COHESIVENESS.

1.
AS THE POLICE CITIZENS CLUBS HAVE RECOGNISED FOR
MANY YEARS, THE PARTICULAR FORM OF LEISURE ACTIVITY
WHICH ATTRACTS A PERSON IS NOT IMPORTANT.

- WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT THE INDIVIDUAL DOES HAVE
ONE OR MORE LEISURE ACTIVITIES AND THE CHANCE TO LEARN
AND DEVELOP THE SKILLS WHICH WILL MAKE THAT ACTIVITY
SATISFYING.

THE POLICE CITIZENS CLUBS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF AUSTRALIA
WOULD NOT HAVE WON THE LONG-STANDING SUPPORT THEY HAVE
IF THEY DID NOT RECOGNISE THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR A
WIDE RANGE OF LEISURE TRAINING AND THE PROVISION OF
GOOD FACILITIES.

MY GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO CONSULT STATE GOVERNMENTS
ON THE PROVISION OF SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES AT
COMMUNITY LEVEL TO ENSURE THAT WHAT IS DONE ACHIEVES
MUTUAL GOALS AND SATISFIES LOCAL NEEDS.

THE CREATION BY THE LABOR GOVERNMENT OF A MINISTRY
OF SPORT, RECREATION AND TOURISM IS UNPRECEDENTED.
IT ALSO REFLECTS THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THIS ASPECT
OF COMMUNITY LIFE.

JOHN BROWN AS MINISTER IS, I BELIEVE, VERY EFFECTIVELY
TRANSLATING THE GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST INTO CONCRETE
PROGRAMS OF ACTION.

THE 41.3 PER CENT INCREASE IN FUNDS FOR YOUTH, SPORT AND RECREATION MADE AVAILABLE IN THE 1983-84 BUDGET IS A FURTHER DEMONSTRATION OF WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE IN THIS IMPORTANT AREA.

LIKE YOUR OWN ORGANISATION, THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO GIVE PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN HEALTHY RECREATION, TO PROMOTE THE PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SOCIAL WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY - WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON MEETING GROUPS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS - AND TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY GENERALLY.

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TODAY. I AM SURE YOUR NEW CLUB WILL MEET ALL YOUR HOPES AND SERVE THE LAKE MACQUARIE REGION WELL FOR MANY YEARS.

I HAVE MUCH PLEASURE IN DECLARING THE CLUB OPEN AND ON BEHALF OF THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT I WISH YOU WELL IN YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVOURS.

* * * * *