



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

16 November 1984

GRANT TO THE FEDERATION OF ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

In the area of ethnic community affairs, the Government's policies of consensus and consultation have been assisted by the emergence of the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council of Australia. The Federation has become a very effective national umbrella organisation performing an advocacy, representative and consultative function on behalf of its constituents, the ethnic communities and their members around Australia.

The Government provided the Federation with a substantial grant-in-aid immediately on assuming office last year. This was the first recognition by a Federal Government of the Federation's need for regular administrative funding to enable it to survive and grow.

The Federation has acquired office premises and talented and committed staff. However, with its new visibility and the increased calls being made on its resources and expertise, it has rapidly outgrown the base-level grants provided for its administrative support.

In order to ensure the continuity of its operations, and the success of its impending First National Congress in Melbourne next month, the Federal Government will provide supplementary funding of \$25,000 to the 1984/85 grant-in-aid of \$60,000 held by the Federation.