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## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

20 August 1985

EMBARGOED UNTIL 8.00 PM

The 1985-86 Budget again reflects the Government's continuing commitment to enhancing the status of women.

All Departments were required to ensure that decisions made in the Budget were made with full knowledge of their impact on women. This role was complemented by the close involvement of the Office of the Status of Women in the Budget process.

In brief, women will benefit from the following Budget initiatives:

- . the expenditure of \$149.4 million on child care, including \$4.9 million towards the planned implementation over three years of an additional 20,000 child care places.
- . a package of social security benefit increases from which low income women will be major beneficiaries.
- . the extension of measures for the care of the aged and handicapped, women being the larger group of both carers and beneficiaries.
- . increases in student allowances, and the provision of a new integrated range of youth policies; both particularly important in view of young women's lower participation in post-school education and higher unemployment rates.

In the House of Representatives tonight I tabled this year's edition of the Women's Budget Program document. That document lists fully the details of the initiatives in the Budget which will benefit women. Also, for the first time, it provides a comprehensive assessment of the programs and activities of all Departments, and many other Commonwealth agencies, from the viewpoint of their impact on women.