



PRIME MINISTER

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

OPENING OF RAINBOW STREET CHILD CARE CENTRE
SYDNEY - 13 FEBRUARY 1987

FEDERAL AND STATE LABOR GOVERNMENT COLLEAGUES,
MAYOR OF RANDWICK,
ALDERMAN SCULLION,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE TODAY TO OPEN THE RAINBOW STREET CHILD CARE CENTRE. WE ARE CELEBRATING A HISTORIC OCCASION TODAY, FOR THE RAINBOW STREET CHILD CARE CENTRE IS THE 100TH CHILD CARE CENTRE COMPLETED UNDER THE CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAM BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH AND NSW GOVERNMENTS.

WITH EVERY CHILD CARE CENTRE THAT IS OPENED, ANOTHER STEP IS TAKEN TOWARDS ACHIEVING A NUMBER OF MY GOVERNMENT'S MOST IMPORTANT POLICY GOALS: EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN, SUPPORT FOR THE WELL BEING OF AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN, AND SUPPORT FOR THEIR FAMILIES.

THIS CENTRE ALSO ILLUSTRATES THE ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR CHILD CARE WHICH EXISTS AT ALL THREE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. I HAVE MENTIONED THE CO-OPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH AND NSW GOVERNMENTS, BUT I WOULD BE REMISS IF I FAILED TO PAY TRIBUTE ALSO TO THE RANDWICK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WHICH SPONSORS THE RAINBOW STREET CENTRE AND TWO OTHER CHILD CARE CENTRES IN THE RANDWICK LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA.

WHEN MY GOVERNMENT CAME TO OFFICE THE COMMONWEALTH FUNDED ONLY 46,000 CHILD CARE PLACES. BY JUNE 1988 WE WILL HAVE APPROVED AND FUNDED A TOTAL OF 60,000 NEW PLACES - MORE THAN HAVE BEEN FUNDED BY ALL PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS COMBINED.

IN THE LAST YEAR OF THE FRASER GOVERNMENT \$65 MILLION WAS SPENT ON CHILD CARE. THIS FINANCIAL YEAR MY GOVERNMENT IS SPENDING JUST UNDER \$200 MILLION FOR CHILD CARE.

BUT IT'S NOT JUST A QUESTION OF INCREASING THE RAW RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO CHILD CARE.

WE HAVE ALSO TRIED TO PROMOTE A MIX OF SERVICES IN RESPONSE TO THE VARIETY OF CHILD CARE NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY.

VERY
- I AM
CAUT.

IN PROVIDING FUNDING FOR LONG DAY CARE WE HAVE RESPONDED TO THE NEEDS OF PARENTS WHO WORK OR WHO ARE SEEKING WORK. WE HAVE DONE MORE TO PROVIDE CHILD CARE TO SUPPORT WORKING WOMEN THAN ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT HAS.

WE ARE ALSO EXPANDING SERVICES WHICH ASSIST PARENTS WHO STAY AT HOME WITH CHILDREN. BY JUNE 1988 WE WILL HAVE ESTABLISHED AN ADDITIONAL 3,000 OCCASIONAL CARE PLACES TO PROVIDE THESE CHILDREN A FEW HOURS OF CARE A WEEK OUT OF THEIR HOMES.

AND IN BUILDING CHILD CARE CENTRES LIKE THIS ONE AT RAINBOW STREET WE ARE DISPLAYING OUR DETERMINATION TO ENSURE MAXIMUM ACCESS TO CHILD CARE SERVICES BY PEOPLE WHO NEED THEM MOST.

RANDWICK HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED BY THE NSW STATE PLANNING COMMITTEE AS BEING IN HIGH NEED OF CHILD CARE FACILITIES. AS WELL AS RAINBOW STREET, THREE OTHER CHILD CARE CENTRES HAVE BEEN APPROVED IN THE RANDWICK LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH/STATE PLAN.

WE ALSO TRY TO ENSURE THAT CHILD CARE IS AFFORDABLE BY LOW AND MODERATE INCOME EARNERS. UNDER A FEE RELIEF SYSTEM, THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTRIBUTION FOR A SINGLE CHILD CARE PLACE CAN RISE FROM AN AVERAGE OF \$35 A WEEK TO AS MUCH AS \$90 A WEEK.

IT'S CLEAR I THINK THAT THE COMMONWEALTH AND NSW HAVE A GOOD RECORD IN WORKING TOGETHER TO INCREASE THE PROVISION OF CHILD CARE.

NSW WAS NOT ONLY THE FIRST STATE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN WHAT WE KNOW AS THE COMMONWEALTH/STATE CO-OPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS BUT ACTUALLY SUGGESTED, BACK IN 1982, THAT THE STATE AND COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS WORK TOGETHER TO SHARE THE COSTS OF CONSTRUCTING CHILD CARE CENTRES. BY JUNE 1988 THE NUMBER OF CHILD CARE CENTRES IN NSW WILL HAVE RISEN TO 177 REPRESENTING MORE THAN 7000 ADDITIONAL CHILD CARE PLACES.

ALL THESE FIGURES SHOW CLEARLY THAT CHILD CARE IS A COSTLY SCHEME. BUT IT IS EQUALLY CLEAR THAT THE CENTRES WE ARE ESTABLISHING FULFILL A VERY REAL NEED IN THE COMMUNITY. WE ARE PROUD OF OUR RECORD SO FAR AND I WANT TO STATE WE WILL NOT BE DETERRED FROM CONTINUING TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE TO MEET WHAT ARE PRESSING AND WIDESPREAD COMMUNITY NEEDS.

I WANT IN CLOSING TO SINGLE OUT THE NAMES OF THREE PEOPLE FOR SPECIAL THANKS.

FIRST, SINCE THE RAINBOW STREET CHILD CARE CENTRE HAS BEEN OPERATING SINCE 1 SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, I WANT TO CONGRATULATE ANNE MIZON, THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE, AND HER STAFF, ON THE PLEASANT AND CREATIVE ATMOSPHERE THAT IS APPARENT HERE.

SECOND, I WANT TO RECOGNISE THE CONTRIBUTION MADE TO RAINBOW STREET AND INDEED TO THE ENTIRE FEDERAL ELECTORATE OF PHILLIP BY YOUR LOCAL MEMBER, JEANETTE MCHUGH. SHE IS A

VERY ARTICULATE AND VERY DETERMINED LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE AND
- I KNOW BETTER THAN MOST - A VERY EFFECTIVE DEFENDER IN
CAUCUS OF HER CONSTITUENTS' INTERESTS.

FINALLY, I MUST ACKNOWLEDGE A PERSON WHOSE CONTRIBUTION TO
RAINBOW STREET AND TO EVERY OTHER CHILD CARE CENTRE WE HAVE
ESTABLISHED AROUND THE NATION HAS BEEN GIGANTIC. I AM
TALKING ABOUT DON GRIMES, WHO AS MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY
SERVICES AND BEFORE THAT AS SOCIAL SECURITY MINISTER, IS
MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE ABLE TO CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
GROWTH OF CHILD CARE SERVICES BY MY GOVERNMENT.

NEXT MONDAY, DON GRIMES IS FORMALLY TO RESIGN FROM HIS
MINISTERIAL POST. HE WILL THUS BECOME THE FIRST MINISTER TO
LEAVE MY MINISTRY SINCE WE WERE ELECTED - WHICH I MIGHT ADD
MEANS THE COMPOSITION OF MY MINISTRY HAS BEEN THE MOST
STABLE OF ANY SINCE FEDERATION.

WITH DON'S DEPARTURE GOES A MAN WHOSE CONTRIBUTION TO THE
NATION HAS BEEN IMMENSE. HE HAS BEEN A SYMPATHETIC AND
BRILLIANTLY INFORMED MINISTER IN THE HUGE WELFARE AREA. HE
HAD WON THE RESPECT OF WELFARE ACTIVISTS LONG BEFORE WE CAME
INTO OFFICE AND HIS WORK IN OFFICE HAS VINDICATED THAT
RESPECT. THE 100TH CHILD CARE CENTRE BUILT IN NSW UNDER THE
JOINT FEDERAL-NSW PROGRAM MUST STAND AS AN ENDURING MONUMENT
TO HIM.

I NOW OFFICIALLY DECLARE THE RAINBOW STREET CHILD CARE
CENTRE OPEN AND WISH YOU ALL WELL IN THE OPERATION OF THIS
IMPORTANT COMMUNITY RESOURCE.
