



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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The release today of the ANOP youth survey shows clearly that the attitudes and views of young Australians are in line with my Government's youth strategy.

It is very satisfying that the \$1 billion invested by my Government in our young people over the past two years is proving to be well spent.

The survey, carried out by ANOP in October 1986, was a continuation of the Government's commitment to consult young people.

The survey highlights substantial support for measures being taken to increase school retention rates, improve income support, develop traineeships and provide community work opportunities for the unemployed. Young people are placing more emphasis on the need for Government policy to be directed towards providing better training, education and other mechanisms for attaining jobs rather than simply creating them. They also believe the Government should provide more information and advice on these opportunities through schools and local information centres.

To this end, my Government is pleased to announce two initiatives which I believe will enable more young people to see the personal relevance of the programs and policies available to them under our youth strategy.

Firstly, the Government is setting up a comprehensive school information program to meet the needs of young people still at school.

This program will reinforce for young people the advantages of completing Year 12 while at the same time ensuring that they are aware of the student allowances available. It will also encourage them to take further education and training opportunities available if they choose to leave school early.

By the end of this year, more than half of Australian schoolchildren will be staying on to Year 12, compared with just 36 per cent when we came to office. The school information program aims to boost school retention rates further.

Secondly, the Government is increasing to 100 the number of Youth Access Centres. These are one stop shops where information about all the Federal Government services for young people is available. The announced increases will allow a national network of Youth Access Centres to be established.

Details of the two programs are provided in separate press releases from the Minister for Education, Senator Ryan, the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Mr Willis.