



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

10 March 1987

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER FOR
SCIENCE; MR BARRY JONES, MP

The Government is delighted to announce a \$750,000 five-year sponsorship by Shell Australia Limited for the travelling component of the National Science and Technology Centre.

The Prime Minister received a cheque for the first instalment of the sponsorship from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Shell Australia, Mr Kevan Gosper, in Canberra today.

The sponsorship will be used to establish a permanent travelling science exhibition, to be known as the Shell Quostacon Science Circus. A prototype of the travelling exhibition, sponsored by Shell, has already visited a number of State capitals and provincial centres.

Shell is to be commended for its foresight in sponsoring the travelling exhibition, which will go on the road from January 1988. The permanent National Science and Technology Centre in Canberra will open during the second half of 1988.

The Government's central task over the last four years has been restructuring the Australian economy.

This requires in part the development of knowledge-based industries, which will in turn require a greater proportion of Australian youth to undertake higher education, particularly in the science and technology fields.

The National Science and Technology Centre must play a role in raising scientific literacy across all age groups in the community.

We congratulate and thank Shell for its continued support of this important national project.

The Science Circus will give all Australians that opportunity by bringing science to them and demonstrating that science and technology are not esoteric subjects of interest only to white-coated people in laboratories.