



7a.

## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

21 MAY 1989

### JOINT STATEMENT WITH THE HON. JOHN BANNON, MLA PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Thousands more South Australian children will gain access to child care under a new \$10 million program announced today by the Prime Minister and SA Premier John Bannon.

Families, particularly working parents who need quality care for their children outside school hours, will have access to twice the present number of places.

The package also provides a boost for parents not in the workforce who seek occasional child care to give them short term breaks from caring for their children.

It follows agreement for a new three-year child care program by the Commonwealth and South Australian Governments.

"The package will build upon the solid foundation we have already created to provide the best possible children's services for South Australian families," Mr Hawke said today.

The new program is against a backdrop of significant increases in child care services since the election of the Hawke Government. Nationally, the Federal Government has created 68,000 new child care places since 1983. Of these, more than 4,500 have been provided in South Australia.

The last Federal Budget launched a National Child Care Strategy which will provide 30,000 additional places over the next three years.

Under this Strategy, our agreement provides that, for South Australia:

- . OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS care places will be effectively doubled, providing an extra 1,700 places for children needing care and quality activities before or after school.
- . MORE CHILD CARE centres will be built in key areas of need. Five child care centres, providing a total of 247 new places will be built. This will mean subsidised long day child care centres will care for more than 6,300 South Australian children.

- . FAMILY DAY CARE places will be boosted by 330 places to provide a total State-wide coverage of care for some 5,500 children.
- . PARENTS seeking short term breaks from their children will gain greater access to occasional care, with 160 new places being provided. This program will provide particular help to parents not in the workforce and will focus on existing community facilities to ensure parents have access to child care in their local neighbourhood.

The new package will involve capital works expenditure of some \$5 million and operational contributions by both Governments totalling \$5 million over the next three years. The Federal Government will continue to provide fee relief to enable low income and single parent families to use the centres.

Locations of the new child care services will be announced following further discussions between the Commonwealth and State Governments.