



PRIME MINISTER

8 November 1984

FOR MEDIA

NATIONAL CONSULTATION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR WOMEN

I am happy to announce today a National Consultation and Assistance Program for women totalling \$472,000.

The first part of the Program will provide an annual increase of \$122,000 in funds for grants to national women's organisations. These grants will be administered by the Office of the Status of Women in my Department.

The second part of the Program is designed to assist member organisations of the National Women's Consultative Council. These comprise a wide range of national women's organisations and other organisations committed to improving the status of women. The Government consults the Council about major issues which affect women.

The Government has approved a special one-off payment of \$10,000 for each of the non-government organisations on the Council. The total allocation will be \$150,000 over two years. This will provide Council members with the resources necessary to seek out the views of their members on issues identified by the Government and to generally consult their members on issues of importance to women.

The organisations to benefit from these payments are:

- Association of Civilian Widows
- Australian Council of Churches
- Australian Council of Trade Unions
- Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women
- Australian Federation of University Women
- Australian Union of Students
- Country Women's Association of Australia
- Disabled Peoples International
- Federation of Aboriginal Women
- Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia
- National Aboriginal Conference
- National Council of Women of Australia
- Union of Australian Women
- Women's Electoral Lobby

In addition, the Council Convenor, Mrs Edith Hall, will receive an allocation to assist her with the expenses associated with running the Council.

The third part of the Program is an annual allocation totalling \$200,000 for grants to approved organisations for projects to assist women.

Organisations will need to submit projects for approval and in most cases the grant will be limited to \$15,000. Eligible organisations could include trade unions, churches, ethnic or Aboriginal groups as well as the traditional women's organisations.

The whole Program is designed to increase the input of women into decisions made for and about them.

My Government is committed to providing women with opportunities to participate fully in all aspects of Australian social and economic life. I am particularly aware of the widespread interest expressed by women's organisations in taxation matters. I have informed the Council that at least one of its members will attend the Taxation Summit specifically to represent women's interests.