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Title:

Statement: No more federal funds for housing

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STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date July 22, 1976.....

Embargo.....

State Administration Centre,
Victoria Square, Adelaide,
South Australia 5001
228 4811

NO MORE FEDERAL FUNDS FOR HOUSING.

Housing Ministers from all States today unanimously called on the Federal Government to increase funds for home building by at least 20 percent.

At a meeting in Sydney, Ministers representing both Liberal and Labor State Governments said that housing throughout the country urgently needed more money.

The Premier and Acting Minister for Housing, Mr. Dunstan, told the conference that the amount provided by Canberra was "completely inadequate".

"We have been kept to the same amount for the past two years and we have been told that this amount will not be increased this year.

"So we will have been given the same money amounts for three years running while building costs have risen dramatically".

Mr. Dunstan said South Australia had asked the Federal Government for \$49.4 million which would have allowed the Housing Trust to start work on 1,500 new homes.

"Mr. Fraser and Mr. Lynch rejected this, holding us to \$33.6 million, the same as 1975/76 and 1974/75.

"Building and development costs have risen very markedly and it is completely unrealistic for the Federal Government to give us only the same amount.

"The result will be fewer houses for South Australians at a time when the demand for rental housing is rising. The Trust's waiting list is growing because the private sector is unable to provide sufficient rental accommodation.



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"Building and development costs have risen very markedly and it is completely unrealistic for the Federal Government to give us only the same amount.

"The result will be fewer houses for South Australians at a time when the demand for rental housing is rising. The Trust's waiting list is growing because the private sector is unable to provide sufficient rental accommodation.

"23,391 families are on the Trust's list, 20,324 of them waiting to rent homes. Single parent families are particularly hit and in the last year 1,621 single parent families have asked the Trust for homes.

"Mr. Fraser and Mr. Lynch just cannot see that the private sector generally and the building industry in particular, rely heavily on Government contracts.

"If these contracts are cut back there is less work for the industry and that means more people without jobs.

"The Federal Government must provide realistic funds, and all the States agree on this.

"There is a desperate need for welfare housing and the States do not have the funds to cope.

"Low income earners are being particularly affected because, like so many other decisions of this Federal Government, the people with the least are being called on to suffer the most.

"Mr. Fraser and Mr. Lynch should recognise the Federal Government's responsibility for welfare housing and immediately provide funds to maintain State programmes".

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