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Title:

Statement: Youth unemployment

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STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date August 11, 1976.
Embargo.....

State Administration Centre,
Victoria Square, Adelaide,
South Australia 5001
227 2688

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

The Premier, Mr. Dunstan, today released results of a survey by the Youth Unemployment Working Party established earlier this year.

Mr. Dunstan said information in the survey was disturbing because it showed that unemployment among young people was more widespread than previously thought and that youth unemployment was most severe in country areas.

Unemployment for young people is a particularly demoralising experience, especially for those who have come straight from school and who cannot get work.

"The long term effects on young people who cannot find secure, satisfying employment are very worrying.

"Most young people want to get jobs and the report shows that they try very hard to get work. The Government does not accept the attitude of some people that young unemployed are dole bludgers.

"The situation for young people seeking work at the moment is grim", Mr. Dunstan said.

Among survey results are :-

- Unemployment among young people is getting worse, while job vacancies are at best, static. In July 1975, 8172 young South Australians were out of work, and there were only 259 job vacancies. In July this year, 8592 young people in the State were looking for work, and there were only 260 vacancies.
- In the clerical and administration field, 3000 girls were competing for 76 vacancies.
- In semi-skilled areas, 1210 males were competing for 42 jobs.
- In unskilled work, 2100 males were vying for 13 jobs.
- At the end of July this year, 42 percent of people without jobs were under 21, despite the fact that the 15-20 year old group comprises only 15 percent of the total work force. The level of unemployment



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- among young people is far higher than for the rest of the community, with one in eight to nine unable to get work.
- A disturbing number of young people are out of work for long periods, More than 40 percent of non-school leavers had been unemployed for six months or more, with people in country areas generally having been unemployed longer than those in metropolitan areas.
- The problem is understated in unemployment statistics prepared by the C.E.S., because there are many young people who cannot get jobs, but are not registered with the C.E.S. The members of the Working Party estimate that an additional 2000 young people, mainly girls, may be without jobs.
- 55 percent of young unemployed surveyed thought the community viewed their plight with little sympathy or concern.

Mr. Dunstan said the Government's youth unemployment scheme would be brought together in the Department of Labour and Industry and the Youth Unemployment Advisory Unit established in May in the Premier's Department would change its name to the Youth Work Unit and become part of the Department of Labour and Industry.

"The Youth Work Unit will co-ordinate the Government measures, such as the Job Hunters Clubs and the State Unemployment Relief Scheme, which are trying to cope with this problem."

Mr. Dunstan said the Working Party's recommendations had been given to the Government in May this year, and had been quickly adopted by Cabinet.

"We established the Youth Unemployment Advisory Unit immediately because we were concerned at the effects of unemployment among young people.

"The Government will be providing substantial funds to deal with the special problems of young people who are unemployed."

Mr. Dunstan said the members of the Working Party were Mr. J. Bannon, Assistant Secretary, Department of Labour and Industry; Mr. Graham Forbes, Co-ordinator, Unemployed Youth Scheme, Department for Community Welfare, and Mr. Leon Horvat, Principal Education Officer, Department for Further Education.

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