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**Title:**

Statement: Bonding of student teachers, teachers and public servants

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# STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date.....16.12.76.....

Embargo.....

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

The Acting Premier Mr. Des Corcoran today announced a further move on the Government's policy of eliminating the bonding of student teachers, teachers, and public servants.

Mr. Corcoran said this decision was consistent with the Government's earlier decision to abolish bonded scholarships for student teachers as from 1st January, 1975.

The State Government had decided to write-off more than \$1.8 million owed to the Education Department by former teachers or student teachers under bond liability.

The policy came into effect from 6th December, 1976, but it was not retrospective.

Mr. Corcoran said the stage had been reached when the administration cost and difficulty of trying to collect the money owing no longer made the exercise an economic proposition.

In 1977 no new unbonded scholarships would be offered for undergraduate courses and graduate scholarships for one year would be unbonded.

Mr. Corcoran said: "All distinctions between those training for teaching and those training for other professions have ended."

He said that since the abolition of the bonding system, the policy had been to continue to recover debts from bond defaulters whether the bond was broken before or after January, 1975, and to hold previously bonded students to the requirements to render service.

Mr. Corcoran said the effect of the new policy was that teachers currently in service and under bond, would not be held to the terms of the agreement.

There were also some bonded students undertaking courses of teacher education at Colleges of Advanced Education and Universities who would not be required to render service.

Mr. Corcoran said that there was now an adequate supply of teachers seeking employment.

Mr. Corcoran said: "From now on the Education Department will be able to employ the best people available for our schools, rather than have to employ some who may be teaching merely to discharge their bond liability.

"Qualified teachers will now have greater opportunity to accept positions at independent schools and tertiary institutions, at schools interstate and overseas, without having a financial obligation if they resign before fulfilling the requirement to teach for a minimum of three years in a Government school in South Australia."

Mr. Corcoran stated that bonding would also be eliminated in the Public Service except in cases of severe staff shortages or where the financial commitment of the Government was equivalent to or greater than an officer's full-time salary for one year.

(Note: Please address further enquiries to the Minister of Education, Dr. Don Hopgood.)