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Press release - Doctors' fees

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PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PREMIER (MR. DUNSTAN)

DOCTORS' FEES.

30/6/71

The Prices Commissioner, Mr. L.H. Baker, has recommended that no action should be taken to oppose the proposed increase in doctors' fees in South Australia, the Premier (Mr. Dunstan) said today.

The Premier referred the proposed increases in current fees for surgery consultations and home visits to the Prices Commissioner when they were announced.

Mr. Dunstan said the Commissioner had given detailed examination to the proposed increase.

The 15% increase was based on the percentage increase in the average weekly earnings index for South Australia using the average of quarterly figures for 1968-1970.

This amounted to 17.9%.

If the average weekly earnings increase had been based on the December quarter figures only for the two years it would have been about 20%.

On the basis of statistical comparisons and as the Federal Government and medical funds would be absorbing the fee increases it was recommended by the Commissioner that no action should be taken to oppose the proposed increase in doctors' fees.

This had been accepted by the Government, the Premier said.
