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Press release: Unemployment figures

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PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN.

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES.

14/8/72

The July seasonally adjusted unemployment figures were sad proof that the Federal Government's failure to take action to stimulate demand months ago had made unemployment Australia's most pressing and persistent national problem, the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, said today.

Commenting on the figures, the Premier said the claim by Mr. Lynch that they "must be seen in the context of serious industrial turmoil" was a smokescreen designed to cover his Government's tragic neglect of the problem.

A key factor apparently ignored by Mr. Lynch was that, not only were more people jobless, they were unemployed for longer.

"I have said for months we need action to stimulate demand.

"Tomorrow's budget is the Federal Government's last chance for action - though it will be too late to relieve the misery already suffered by literally thousands of families.

"But the persistence of the problem shows - to anyone who still needs convincing - that the only real solution is a change of Government in Canberra and its replacement by an administration with coherent national economic planning policies."