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Title:

Press release for 'Southern Cross' - Precis of address to St Michaels College

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PRESS RELEASE FOR "SOUTHERN CROSS"

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THE PREMIER (MR. DUNSTAN) ADDRESS TO PARENTS AT ST. MICHAELS COLLEGE, HENLEY BEACH. (AFTER PRESENTING PRIZES AT 7.45 P.M. ON 13th NOVEMBER, 1970)

"A child's education should not be determined by what his parents can afford to spend," the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, said at the St. Michael's College Speech Night.

"It is imperative that all our children are given full opportunity to develop their intellects and creative talents. In Australia at present, there are too many children who are forced to leave school early, or who are not able to develop fully as intelligent, active members of our community because their parents cannot afford their complete education.

"This is not good enough. Our society will never realise its potential until we can confidently say 'No child receives a better education than any other child'.

"It is quite obvious at the moment that this is not the case.

"Many State and independent schools suffer grievously from lack of funds, and the children at these schools suffer proportionately.

"For instance, only about 5 - 6½% of students from State and Catholic schools go on to study at the university, whereas 20% of students from the wealthier independent schools go to university.

"Ideally, there should be no difference in these percentages.

"But we cannot attain our educational ideals unless we have more money. And this money must come from the Commonwealth."

Mr. Dunstan said that the recent National Survey showed clearly that the State Governments alone could not provide the finance necessary to eliminate inequalities in the education system.

"The Commonwealth must dramatically change its attitude towards education, and accept the fact that it has a responsibility for the development of all our children."