

Health promotion programmes will receive more emphasis, with child health being a priority. The programme of child-health checks and immunisation will be expanded to ensure that as many children benefit as possible. Efforts will be made to make these services universally available, and to encourage parents to see that they are used by their children.

In recent times much attention has focused on the care and protection of children. A revision of the Children and Young Persons Act will therefore be introduced for recess study.

The Government is committed to education as a life-long process. It has a mandate to make a number of improvements in the education system. The issues involved, however, will be the subject of full and of careful consultation with all interest groups concerned. Discussions on the core curriculum will be reopened.

An Education Bill will be introduced providing for a number of administrative amendments, including provision for setting up new Education Authorities, and empowering existing Education Authorities to administer resource centres to improve educational opportunities for teacher and community groups.

In the housing field, the Government will work actively to overcome the crisis in rental accommodation and to improve the prospects of home ownership which have been denied to an increasing number of New Zealanders.

The role of the Housing Corporation as the prime provider of home finance to low income home-seekers will be restored and assistance will be directed towards those most in need.

The Government will stop the depletion of state house units and take steps to ensure that there is an adequate supply of state rental units to meet urgent housing needs.

The Government will consult with the building industry to bring about policies aimed at restoring stability and confidence and at maximising employment opportunities.

On the domestic scene effective commercial competition is a crucial element in establishing a prices policy which promotes industrial efficiency, inhibits inflation, and protects the consumer. There will be a reievw of ways of developing effective competition, and legislation towards this end will be introduced as soon as practicable.

Consumer Affairs will receive special attention by the Government. The portfolio of Minister of Consumer Affairs has been created to provide specific Ministerial responsibility for the promotion of the interest of consumers.