Aid plan for bank

CANBERRA.—South Australia will get $285 million this financial year as the first instalment of the Federal Government's State Bank of SA aid package.

SA Premier Lyn Arnold confirmed Prime Minister Paul Keating's election campaign promise in talks in Canberra with Treasurer John Dawkins yesterday.

Mr Arnold said $285 million would be paid by June 30 subject to confirmation of a sale process for the debt-ridden bank later this week and further work on technical details.

The rest of the $600 million aid package will flow over the next two financial years.

Safe sex pushed

"MELBORNE.—Prostitutes are far more sophisticated in guarding against the HIV-AIDS virus than any other group and cannot be blamed for spreading the disease, a Victorian university researcher has found.

Dr Ian Parsonson said society should learn from Victorian prostitutes, who effectively controlled HIV-AIDS in the sex industry through a comprehensive education program which had exceptional material.

He said Victorian prostitutes followed a strict code of "safe sex".

They were unrelenting in passing the message to their clients.

Collins gives rail assurance

Opposition Leader Brian Ede said he had been given personal assurances by Federal Transport Minister Senator Bob Collins yesterday that the Alice to Darwin rail survey would begin almost immediately.

Both major parties promised to complete the $3 million survey during the election campaign.

Immediately after the election, Senator Collins issued a statement saying the Keating Government would not renge on the commitment.

Mr Ede said yesterday that the completion of the rail link was essential for the future development of the Territory.

He said he had obtained assurances from Senator Collins that the survey work would proceed as promised, but had no specific date for a start.

"In every scenario that we've established for the development of the Territory, the requirement is for a freight link," Mr Ede said.

He said immediately after the survey was completed that there should be a full cost-benefit analysis.

"Then we ought to look at the mix of private and public investment that is needed to get the rail link completed," he said.

Ex-cop jailed for corruption

MELBORNE.—A former detective was sentenced to seven years jail yesterday for corruption offences which a judge said were motivated by greed and power.

County Court Judge Michael Strong ordered that Paul William Higgins, 47, serve a minimum of five years before becoming eligible for parole.

The judge said Higgins had brazenly and openly been involved in a "den of iniquity" aimed at protecting Melbourne brothel king Geoffrey Lamb.

Higgins was allowed to have free sex at Lamb's brothels as part of the arrangement.