

1984

The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of Australia

States Grants (Schools Assistance) Amendment Bill 1984

Explanatory Memorandum

(Circulated by authority of
the Minister for Education
and Youth Affairs, Senator
the Hon Susan Ryan)

OUTLINE
STATES GRANTS (SCHOOLS ASSISTANCE) AMENDMENT BILL 1984

The principal purpose of this Bill is to supplement grants in respect of 1984 schools assistance programs administered by the Commonwealth Schools Commission. The Bill gives effect to adjustments arising from movements in prices as measured by the Schools Price Index. The index measures changes in the costs of services and commodities purchased by school authorities and has two separate components: recurrent prices and building prices. Supplementation is made in accordance with actual movements in the index.

Variations to the existing legislation are detailed in this memorandum in explanations of individual clauses of the Bill.

In addition to the principal purpose, provisions are included to facilitate the administration of grants in relation to building and equipment projects in connection with schools serving predominately Aboriginal communities.

The adjustments to the 1984 programs provided for in this Bill are estimated to cost \$9.7 million.

CLAUSES OF THE BILL

Clause 1

Citation and Principal Act

Clause 2

Commencement of operation

Clause 3

Interpretation

Clause 3 (a)

"non-government body" - a new provision to define what is meant by non-government body

Clause 3 (b)

Reference to an approved authority for the purposes of sub-sections (13) and (14) of the Act is extended to include the approved authority of a non-government body administering a project in connection with a government school.

Clause 3 (c) and (d)

Reference to an approved authority as declared by the Minister is extended to include the approved authority of a non-government body administering a project in connection with a government school. This will enable Aboriginal and other non-government bodies to seek financial assistance under the Act.

Clause 4

Determination of levels of funding for eligible new arrivals.

Adjustment of entitlement of financial assistance to be provided in respect of each eligible new arrival receiving education in English as a second language.

Clause 5

Approval of building projects and equipment projects in connection with schools serving predominantly Aboriginal communities.

New provision to allow for financial assistance to be provided for hostel accommodation for students at schools serving predominantly aboriginal communities. Aboriginal and other non-government bodies will be eligible to apply for financial assistance for this specific purpose.

Clause 6

Grants for building projects and equipment projects in connection with schools serving predominantly Aboriginal communities.

Clause 6 (a)

Provides conditions under which financial assistance is granted to a State in respect of a project in connection with a government school, and extends this reference to exclude those projects administered by a non-government body in a government school.

Requires the State to furnish a certificate by an authorised person certifying that financial assistance was applied to meet expenditure in relation to the approved project.

Clause 6 (b), (c) and (d)

Conditions under which financial assistance is granted to a State for projects in connection with non-government schools are extended to include those projects administered by non-government bodies in government schools and their declared approved authorities.

Clause 6 (e) and (f)

Extends provisions under Section 42, sub-sections (5) and (6) of the Act, to include the approved authorities of non-government bodies administering projects in connection with government schools.

Clause 7 (a) and (b)

Adjustment to aggregate amount of payments that shall be authorised by the Minister in respect of building and equipment projects at schools serving predominantly Aboriginal communities. Aggregate amounts to be allocated to: projects approved in connection with government schools (other than projects administered by non-government authorities); and projects in non-government schools and those in government schools administered by non-government authorities.

Clause 8

Substitution of new schedules of updated grants with the exception of Schedule 8 and Schedule 9.

Clause 9

Grant moneys already applied by a State Department of Education or a non-government authority are to be taken into account in relation to the grants as varied in the amended schedules.

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