

1981

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY ACT 1946

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Minister for Education,
the Hon. Wal. Fife)

Bill for an Act to Amend the Australian National University Act 1946

Outline

This Bill amends the Australian National University Act 1946 to clarify that compulsory student fees may only be used for the provision of amenities and services for students. In doing this, the Bill is directed at ensuring that compulsory student fees cannot be used to generate income that is then applied to purposes other than the provision of amenities and services.

The ANU Act was amended in 1979 to bring the Act into line with the Government's policy on the membership and funding of student organisations. While these amendments provided that compulsory student fees could only be used for the provision of amenities and services, and not for socio-political activities, issues have arisen in the implementation of these amendments. A particular issue has been the use of funds derived from student fees for purposes other than the provision of amenities and services. This Bill is intended to clarify the Government's intention that income derived from these fees cannot be used for socio-political purposes and to prevent such use. It also requires administrative expenses of student organisations to be apportioned to the extent that they may be directly attributable to the provision of amenities and services.

Clause 3

This clause provides that moneys derived by an organisation of students from compulsory student fees by such means as internal payments and payments for the use of amenities cannot be used for purposes other than the provision of amenities and services. This requirement is added to the obligations to be met in the submission of financial statements by student organisations to the University Council. Where income is received through the use of both compulsory student fees and other income, it is necessary to apportion this income for the purpose of determining how much of that income may be used for amenities and services. Administrative expenses of student organisations are also to be apportioned in accordance to the extent that these expenses may be attributed to the provision of amenities and services.