

1987

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Australian National University
Amendment Bill 1987

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(circulated by authority of the Minister for
Employment, Education and Training,
the Hon J S Dawkins MP)

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OUTLINE

The purpose of this Bill is to provide, as a consequence of the States Grants (Tertiary Education Assistance) Bill 1987, amendments to the Australian National University Act 1946.

The Bill will enable:

- . a limited relaxation of the legislative prohibition on tuition fees in a designated range of tertiary education courses as approved by the Minister;
- . provision to require students withdrawing from a course after teaching has commenced to be liable for the higher education administration charge; and
- . extension of exemption from the charge to dependant spouses of certain persons already exempted from the charge.

The Bill will ensure consistency of treatment with tertiary institutions in the States and Northern Territory. Financial implications cannot be quantified precisely at this stage, but are expected to be minimal.

NOTES ON CLAUSES

- Clause 1 : Short title
- Clause 2 : Commencement: Provides for the legislation to come into operation at the same time as the States Grants (Tertiary Education Assistance) Act 1987.
- Clause 3 : Statutes: This clause up-dates the provision of the Principal Act under which Statutes are made by substituting reference to the fees provision of the new, States Grants tertiary legislation.
- Clause 4 : Fees: This clause provides amendments to enable fees to be charged in specific post-basic courses approved and gazetted by the Minister after an approach in regard to those courses from the University.
- Clause 5 : Higher Education administration charge: This clause amends existing provisions so that students commencing in courses and who may, or may not withdraw, are liable to pay the charge. It also extends exemption from payment of the charge to dependant spouses of certain categories of needy students who are themselves exempt.