

1981

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE
CANBERRA COLLEGE OF ADVANCED EDUCATION ACT 1967

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

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

Canberra College of Advanced Education Amendment Bill 1981

OUTLINE

This Bill amends the Canberra College of Advanced Education Act 1967 to provide for the limited introduction of tuition fees at the College. There is parallel provision in the States Grants (Tertiary Education Assistance) Bill for the introduction of tuition fees in universities and colleges of advanced education in the States, and the provisions of this Bill follow the same general approach.

The Bill empowers the Minister to make determinations with respect to such matters as the categories of students liable to pay tuition fees, exemptions, the situation of overseas students, and the level of fees to be charged. Statistical information with respect to student enrolments and fees chargeable is to be provided by the College. The Bill empowers the College Council to make statutes with respect to tuition fees.

Clause 3

The clause amends section 21 of the Act to empower the College Council to make statutes with respect to the payment to the College of tuition fees by such persons and at such rates as specified in the Minister's determination.

Clause 4

The purpose of this clause is to enable the Minister to make determinations in respect of the imposition of tuition fees that would specify such matters as the categories of students liable to pay tuition fees, exemptions, the situation of overseas students and the level of fees to be charged. A limit of \$1,000 per annum is set in respect of the level of fees that the Minister may determine. The Minister may require the Council of the College to supply statistical and other information at a specified time in relation to student enrolments and tuition fees paid or payable. The exclusions from such a determination made by the Minister include students who do not hold a degree or diploma awarded by an Australian institution, students who enrolled and took up a course before 1 January 1982, overseas students who already are required to pay charges imposed by the Overseas Students Charge Act 1979 and sponsored overseas students whose liability is discharged by section 7 of the Overseas Students Charge Collection Act 1979. Determinations made by the Minister are to be published in the Gazette and take effect on the date of publication or on a date specified in the determination. While such a determination is in force, the College Council is required to charge tuition fees of the categories of students specified in the determination as having an obligation to pay tuition fees.

Clause 5

This clause amends section 25 of the Act which states that fees are not payable to the College except as determined by the College Council subject to any directions of the Minister. The Council may at present determine fees for the provision of student amenities and services, for residential accommodation and for non-award courses. This power in respect of these categories of fees will be maintained and will be extended to the charging of tuition fees in accordance with determinations made by the Minister.