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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Commonwealth Grants Commission Act Amendment Bill 1981

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Minister for
Administrative Services, the Hon. Kevin Newman, M.P.)

OUTLINE

The purpose of the Bill is to amend the present Commonwealth Grants Commission Act 1973 to remove the limit on the number of members that may be appointed to the Commission.

At present, the number of members may not be less than two nor more than four. The lower limit is being retained but the upper limit removed.

The Bill also deletes the Section relating to the establishment of a Special Division to undertake an inquiry under the States (Personal Income Tax Sharing) Act 1976, which has now lapsed.

The Bill proposes a number of formal amendments either consequential on the changes of substance or to ensure consistency with current drafting practice.

CLAUSE NOTES

Clause 2

This Clause provides for the Bill to come into operation on the date on which it receives the Royal Assent.

Clause 3

This Clause amends Section 8(1) to remove the words "or more than four" thus permitting the appointment of whatever number of members is necessary at a particular time. It also makes clear that the amendment does not affect the position of present members of the Commission.

Clause 4

This Clause provides for several formal amendments, viz:

- . the repeal of Section 19A which is now spent, and consequential amendments, and
- . a number of changes to bring the form of the Act into line with current legislation.

