

1986

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

SENATE

Overseas Students Charge Amendment Bill 1986

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by the authority of the
Minister for Education Senator the Hon. Susan Ryan)

November 1986

This memorandum takes account of amendments made by the
House of Representatives to the Bill as introduced.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS CHARGE AMENDMENT BILL 1986
GENERAL OUTLINE

Purpose of the Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to amend the Overseas Students Charge Act 1979 to:-

- . extend charge liability to diplomatic and consular representatives, their staff and dependants, in tertiary studies;
- . impose charges on overseas students who enrol in government and private secondary schools;
- . impose charges on overseas students who undertake courses at technical and further education institutions (TAFEs) and all other TAFE level institutions for which Commonwealth funding is received;
- . fix the charge rates for the 1987 academic year.

Financial Impact

The increase in the overseas students charge proposed in this Bill, for university and advanced education level courses, raises the contribution of a student who commenced the course before 1 January 1986 to 32% of the full average cost of a place and to 45% in respect of a student who commenced the course on or after 1 January 1986.

Secondary and TAFE level students will now be liable for the charge as well as some previously exempt categories of students.

The overseas students charge raised \$42.7m in 1985/86 and is expected to raise \$50.1m in 1986/87.

NOTES ON CLAUSES

Clause 1: Short Title

Clause 2: Commencement: Sets the commencement date of this Act as on a day to be fixed by Proclamation.

Clause 3: Title of the Principal Act: Amends the title of the Principal Act to reflect the extension of the charge liability to secondary students, which is proposed in this Bill.

Clause 4: Interpretation: Alters definitions in the Act and inserts definitions used in the Bill:-

- . to extend the charge liability to diplomatic and consular representatives of a foreign country, their staff and dependants, in tertiary studies;
- . to accommodate the introduction of charges for overseas students who undertake studies at secondary schools and TAFE level institutions, which is proposed in this Bill.

Clause 5: Declared Course: As TAFE institutions will be prescribed institutions under Section 4 of the Principal Act, as proposed by Clause 4(c), it is required to omit "(other than a prescribed educational institution)" to ensure that "declared" advanced education level courses undertaken at TAFE institutions continue to attract the advanced education level charge and not the lower TAFE level charge.

Clause 6: Rates of Charge: Sets the rates of charge for the 1987 academic year for prescribed courses as follows:-

University and CAE Courses and Advanced Level Courses at Other Institutions

(a) Courses enrolled in and commenced before 1 January 1986

- (i) \$4,100 for medicine veterinary science and dentistry;
- (ii) \$3,306 for all other courses; and

(b) Courses enrolled in and commenced on or after 1 January 1986

- (i) \$5,756 for medicine, veterinary science and dentistry;
- (ii) \$ 4,916 for all other courses.

The amount of the overseas students charge will be reduced by the amount of the higher education administration charge to be payable by all higher education students in respect of the enrolment.

Technical and Further Education Courses Which
Receive Commonwealth Funding

- (a) \$530 for a course enrolled in and commenced before 1 January 1987;
- (b) \$740 for a course enrolled in and commenced on or after 1 January 1987.

Secondary School Courses

\$300 for a course enrolled in and commenced before or after 1 January 1987.

- Clause 7: Regulations: Provides for the substitution of a new section giving the Governor-General more specific powers in making regulations under the Principal Act.
- Clause 8: Application of Amendments: Provides for amendments to apply to enrolments from 1 January 1987 and subsequent years.
- Clause 9: Transitional: Provides for the regulations made before the commencement of this Act to remain in force provided they are consistent with the Principal Act.