

1988

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OVERSEAS STUDENTS CHARGE AMENDMENT BILL 1988

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

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

## OVERSEAS STUDENTS CHARGE AMENDMENT BILL 1988

### GENERAL OUTLINE

#### Purpose of the Bill

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

- . fix the overseas students charge rates for the 1989 academic year;
- . extend charge liability to an overseas student who is enrolled as a casual higher education student and ensure that such a student is subject to the same provisions as an overseas student enrolled in a prescribed course;
- . change references to "university or advanced education course" to "higher education course" consistent with the language used in the Employment, Education and Training Act 1988.

#### Financial Impact

- . Higher Education Courses

Charges for higher education courses will continue at the current percentage rate of the full average cost of a place to the Commonwealth, ie:

32% for courses commenced before 1 January 1986;  
45% for courses commenced from 1 January 1986 to 31 December 1987; and  
55% for courses commenced from 1 January 1988.

- . TAFE Courses

Charges for TAFE courses will continue at the current percentage of the Commonwealth contribution to a TAFE place, ie:

32% for courses commenced before 1 January 1987;  
45% for courses commenced from 1 January 1987 to 31 December 1987; and  
55% for courses commenced from 1 January 1988.

The proposed overseas students charge for all secondary students is the current level adjusted by the consumer price index movement.

The overseas students charge raised \$56.7M in 1987/88 (higher education administration charge not included) and is expected to raise \$70.3M in 1988/89.

The extension of the charge to overseas students enrolled as casual higher education students is expected to raise \$3.6M in 1988/89.

## NOTES ON CLAUSES

Clause 1: Short title

Clause 2: Commencement: Sets the commencement date of this Act as the day on which it receives the Royal Assent.

Clause 3: Interpretation: Alters terminology and definitions in the Act and inserts definitions used in the Bill:-

- . to change the references to "university or advanced education" course to "higher education" course, wherever appearing, to accord with the language of the Employment, Education and Training Act 1988;
- . to omit the definition of "university or advanced education course" and insert definitions of "casual higher education student", "course of study" and "higher education course"; this is relevant to Clause 4;
- . to extend to a casual higher education student the same entitlements related to enrolment as apply to a student enrolled in a prescribed course.

Clause 4: Imposition of charge: Imposes the charge on an overseas student enrolled as a casual higher education student.

Clause 5: Rates of charge: Sets the rates of charge for the 1989 academic year as follows:-

### Higher Education Courses

- (a) Courses enrolled in and commenced before 1 January 1986
  - (i) \$4,546 for medicine, veterinary science or dentistry;
  - (ii) \$3,753 for all other courses;
- (b) Courses enrolled in and commenced from 1 January 1986 to 31 December 1987
  - (i) \$6,128 for medicine, veterinary science or dentistry;
  - (ii) \$5,288 for all other courses; and

(c) Courses enrolled in and commenced from  
1 January 1988

- (i) \$7,311 for medicine, veterinary science  
or dentistry;
- (ii) \$6,471 for all other courses and for  
enrolment as a casual higher education  
student.

Technical and Further Education Courses

- (a) \$606 for a course enrolled in and commenced  
before 1 January 1987;
- (b) \$853 for a course enrolled in and commenced  
from 1 January 1987 to 31 December 1987; and
- (c) \$1,042 for a course enrolled in and commenced  
from 1 January 1988.

Secondary Education Courses

\$350 for a course enrolled in and commenced before  
or from 1 January 1989.

Clause 6:

Charge not payable in certain cases: Extends the  
provision to a casual higher-education student  
whereby the charge is not payable where the  
student is not required to attend the institution  
of enrolment at any time in the year.