

1988

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

SENATE

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)

THIS MEMORANDUM TAKES ACCOUNT OF AMENDMENTS MADE BY
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BILL AS INTRODUCED

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 include in the definition of "overseas student" a person who is enrolled as a "casual higher education student";
- . 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.

