

1983

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SALARIES AND WAGES PAUSE ACT REPEAL BILL 1983

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations)

OUTLINE

1. The Salaries and Wages Pause Act Repeal Bill 1983 has the purpose of repealing the Salaries and Wages Pause Act 1982. That Act came into force on 23 December 1982 and was to apply for a period of twelve months.
2. Certain transitional arrangements are necessary in relation to medical practitioners and pharmaceutical chemists whose remuneration was affected by the Salaries and Wages Pause Act 1982.
3. The Salaries and Wages Pause Act had the effect of keeping in operation regulations under the Health Insurance Act 1973 which would otherwise have expired. These regulations set out professional services and appropriate fees for Commonwealth medical benefits purposes. The Repeal Act enables the continued operation of these regulations for a maximum period of nine months. This will allow adequate time for any inquiry to be held to determine whether new fees for medical benefits purposes are necessary and for the preparation of new regulations.
4. The Pharmaceutical Benefits Remuneration Tribunal established under the National Health Act will be required to report on its findings from an inquiry within 6 months after the commencement of the Repeal Act.

NOTES ON CLAUSES

Clauses 1 and 2

1. These two clauses provide for the short title and the commencement of the legislation on the day on which it receives the Royal Assent.

Clause 3 - Repeal

This clause provides for the repeal of the Salaries and Wages Pause Act 1982.

Clause 4 - Transition

Regulations under the Health Insurance Act setting out professional services and appropriate fees for Commonwealth medical benefits purposes are to continue in force for a maximum period of nine months. This will allow adequate time for any inquiry to be held to determine whether new fees for medical benefits purposes are necessary and for the preparation of new regulations. The existing regulations may be amended in the meantime.

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Remuneration Tribunal established under the National Health Act is to conduct an inquiry and present its findings within six months.