

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Special Employment - related Programs Bill 1982

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Minister for Finance,
the Hon Dame Margaret Guilfoyle, DBE)

OUTLINE

The purpose of the Bill is to give effect to the announcement following the Premiers' Conference on 7 December 1982 that the Commonwealth will fund programs designed to generate or maintain employment throughout Australia. It is intended that these programs will be financed from savings in Commonwealth outlays from an effective, national wage pause in 1983. An amount of \$300 million (the estimated savings) is appropriated for this purpose.

EXPLANATION

Clause 1 - Short title

The short title of the Bill is the Special Employment - related Programs Bill 1982.

Clause 2 - Commencement

The legislation will not come into force before the day on which the Salaries and Wages Pause Act 1982 comes into operation.

Clause 3 - Interpretation

The clause defines some of the terms used in the Bill.

Clause 4 - Appropriation

Clause 4 appropriates \$300,000,000 for the purposes of the Act. Sub clause 4(a) provides authority for funding programs of work undertaken by the Commonwealth which will generate and maintain employment. Sub-clause 4(b) provides authority for making payments to the States in respect of programs of work undertaken by the States which will generate and maintain employment.

Clause 5 - No expenditure by Minister in respect of employment after 30 June 1984

This clause ensures that the Minister can only approve expenditure for work undertaken up to 30 June 1984.

Clause 6 - Minister may approve programs

Sub-clause 6(a) provides that the Minister can approve a program of works as eligible for financial assistance under the Act if satisfied that the program will generate or maintain employment in Australia.

Sub-clause 6(b) provides that the Minister can specify a limit on the amount of financial assistance which is payable for an approved program of works.

Clause 7 - Grant of Financial Assistance

This clause provides the legal authority for payment of amounts under the Act to the States and ensures that payments do not exceed the amount of any limit imposed by the Minister in approving a program for work undertaken on or before 30 June 1984.

Clause 8 - Evidence of expenditure

This clause provides that a State, in order to be eligible for financial assistance for an approved program, must provide a statement of expenditure certified by the State Auditor-General as evidence that expenditure has been in accordance with the approved program, or any other information required by the Minister.

Clause 9 - Advances

Clause 9 empowers the Minister to make advances to a State so that expenditure by the State does not have to be made from existing funds.

Clause 10 - Conditions

The Clause sets out terms and conditions on which financial assistance is payable to a State.

Sub-clause 10(1) provides the following conditions to be applied to payments:

- (a) if the Minister requests, the State must provide a report on its activities in respect of an approved program, and any other details requested by the Minister;
- (b) if the condition specified in (a) above has not been complied with, or if the State has not undertaken the approved program or part of the approved program, then the State is required to repay any amount it has received as specified by the Minister; and
- (c) any amount required to be repaid may be deducted by the Minister from amounts payable, but not yet paid, to a State.

Sub-clause 10(2) provides for the following conditions to be applied to payments:

- (a) that the Minister may demand, and the State will repay, any amount received by the State for which it was not eligible; and
- (b) that any amount repayable may be deducted by the Minister from further amounts which may become payable.

Sub-clause 10(3) empowers the Minister to determine any other terms and conditions in respect of payments for the purposes of the approved programs.

Clause 11 - Arrangements

This clause empowers the Minister to enter into an arrangement with a State Minister for the purposes of making payments to the States, and provides that terms and conditions set out in the arrangement shall apply to payments.

Clause 12 - Making of Payments

This clause gives authority for the Minister to make payments in respect of expenditure on approved programs.

