

1989

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATES GRANTS
(SCHOOLS ASSISTANCE)
AMENDMENT BILL (NO.2) 1989

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

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

STATES GRANTS (SCHOOLS ASSISTANCE) AMENDMENT BILL (NO.2) 1989

OUTLINE

The purpose of the Bill, which amends the States Grants (Schools Assistance) Act 1988, is to -

1. Supplement existing financial provisions relating to the 1989 program year to take into account increases in price levels.
2. Extend annual programs to the 1990 program year and provide financial allocations in respect of those programs in 1990.
3. Provide for a Rural Hostels Program and to extend eligibility for the Capital Grants Program to rural hostels.
4. Extend eligibility for the New Arrivals Element of the English as a Second Language Program to include students enrolling in the first formal year of primary school who have arrived in Australia up to 18 months previously.
5. Amend the definition of "full fee paying private overseas secondary student" so that it applies to primary as well as secondary students.

Financial Impact

The Bill appropriates an estimated \$2,212 million for schools programs in calendar year 1990, consisting of an estimated \$1,723 million for general recurrent grants, \$262 million for capital grants and \$227 million for specific purpose grants.

The Bill also provides for the appropriation of additional funds for 1989 programs as part of normal cost supplementation arrangements to bring total funding for 1989 programs to an estimated \$2,055 million.

NOTES ON CLAUSES OF THE BILL

- Clause 1: Short title etc
- Clause 2: Commencement: The Act comes into operation upon Royal Assent
- Clause 3: Interpretation: Defines words and terms used in the Bill
- Paragraphs
(1)(a) and (b): Extend the definition of "approved authority" to include rural non-government student hostels.
- Paragraph (1)(c): Extends the definition of "capital project" to include rural student hostels leasing land or buildings.
- Paragraph (1)(d): Extends the definition of "eligible new arrival" to include people enrolling in the first year of primary education up to 18 months prior to the commencement of the program year.
- Paragraph (1)(e): Extends the coverage of the definitions of "block grant authority" to cover a rural student hostel and "full fee paying private overseas secondary student" to include primary students from the beginning of 1990.
- Paragraph (1)(f): Defines words and terms used in the Bill to provide for the payment of capital assistance for rural hostels.
- Paragraph (1)(g): Provides for sub-section 3(4) to apply to rural student hostels.
- Paragraph (1)(h): Omits the reference to secondary in the definition of "full fee paying private overseas secondary student" as a consequence of the change in paragraph (1)(e).
- Sub-clause (2): Provides for the effects of the timing of the commencement of Section 4 of the Migration Legislation Amendment Act 1989.
- Sub-clause (3): Provides for the changes in paragraphs (1)(e) and (h) relating to the definition of "full fee paying private overseas secondary student" to apply from 1 January 1990.

- Clause 4: Grants for capital projects in connection with government schools etc:
Provides for Section 12 to apply to rural government student hostels.
- Clause 5: Additional conditions of grants under Part
Provides for Section 18 to apply to rural government student hostels in line with the amendment to Section 12 by Clause 4.
- Clause 6: Approval of block grant authorities
Provides for rural student hostels to be specified in relation to a block grant authority.
- Clauses 7 and 8: Approval of capital projects in connection with non-government schools etc; Grants for capital projects in connection with non-government schools etc:
Provides for Sections 20 and 21 to apply to rural non-government student hostels.
- Clause 9: Additional conditions of grants under Part
Provides for Section 29 to apply to rural non-government hostels in line with the amendments to Sections 20 and 21 by Clauses 7 and 8.
- Clause 10: Insertion of New Part:
PART VIIA - GRANTS FOR RURAL STUDENT HOSTELS:
This clause provides for the approval of capital projects in relation to rural student hostels and for the authorisation of payment of grants for those capital projects in accordance with the normal provisions provided for in the Act where grants may be paid to either government or non-government bodies.

Clause 11,12,13,14: Payments to be made out of Consolidated Revenue Fund or Loan Fund; Authority to Borrow; Application of money borrowed; Reimbursement of Consolidated Revenue Fund from Loan Fund:

This clause provides for the amendment of Sections 45, 46, 47 and 48 so that they cover the new Part VIIA in the same way as other capital grants provided for in the Act.

Clause 15: Repeal of Schedules and Substitution of new Schedules

This clause provides for new schedules to accommodate adjustments and variations in the price levels of the 1989 financial allocations and the initial financial allocations for the 1990 program year.

