

1992

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATES GRANTS (SCHOOLS ASSISTANCE) AMENDMENT BILL
(NO. 2) 1992

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the
Minister for Employment, Education and Training,
the Honourable Kim Beazley MP)

**STATES GRANTS (SCHOOLS ASSISTANCE) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)
1992**

OUTLINE

This Bill proposes to amend the States Grants (Schools Assistance) Act 1988 to provide for supplementation of funds appropriated for schools programs for 1992.

The Bill extends eligibility for the English as a Second Language Program to dependants of certain categories of temporary entry permit holders who are in Australia on visas rather than on temporary entry permits.

The Bill provides for additional funds under the Award Restructuring Assistance Program in 1992 to meet the Commonwealth's share of additional costs associated with the increase in the salary benchmark for 4 year trained teachers to \$38,000 per year and with the introduction of Advanced Skills Teacher positions.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Bill appropriates additional funds for schools programs for 1992 in line with current supplementation arrangements. Total funding for schools programs for 1992 is estimated to be \$2,662.5 million, comprising \$2,082.8 million for general recurrent grants, \$307.4 million for capital grants and \$272.3 million for targeted and joint programs.

NOTES ON CLAUSES

- Clause 1 Short title etc** provides for the Act to be cited as the States Grants (Schools Assistance) Amendment Act (No. 2) 1992.
- Clause 2 Commencement** provides for the Bill to come into effect on the day of Royal Assent.
- Clause 3 Interpretation** amends the definitions of 'eligible new arrival' and 'general education in English as a second language' and inserts new definitions for 'recognised visa' and 'valid visa' in subsection 3(1) of the Principle Act. These changes extend eligibility for the English as a Second Language Program to dependants of certain categories of temporary entry permit holders who are in Australia on visas rather than temporary entry permits.
- Clause 4 Recognised visas** inserts a new section in the Principal Act enabling the Minister to declare a valid visa to be a recognised visa for the purposes of the Act.
- Clause 5 Repeal of Schedule and substitution of new Schedule** provides for the substitution of revised schedules incorporating increased appropriations for 1992 arising from price increases over the 1992 program year.

