

1984
THE PARLIAMENT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATES GRANTS (EDUCATION ASSISTANCE -
PARTICIPATION AND EQUITY)

AMENDMENT BILL 1984

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Minister for Education and
Youth Affairs, Senator the Hon. Susan Ryan)

STATES GRANTS (EDUCATION ASSISTANCE -
PARTICIPATION AND EQUITY) AMENDMENT BILL 1984

OUTLINE

The primary purpose of this Bill is to amend the States Grants (Education Assistance - Participation and Equity) Act 1983 to supplement the grants available to the States and the Northern Territory to take account of cost increases since the enactment of the legislation in December 1983. This Act provides funds for the Participation and Equity Program which commenced in 1984 and will continue in 1985 and 1986.

By this amendment the total of grants available to the States and the Northern Territory for each of 1984, 1985 and 1986 will be increased by \$1,074,000 from \$73,408,000 to \$74,482,000.

This amendment also removes an inequity in the allocation of funds in respect of Northern Territory non-government schools whereby these schools would have received \$11,000 less under the Participation and Equity Program in 1984 than they did under the School to Work Transition Program in 1983. The latter program has been subsumed by the Participation and Equity Program. The reduced allocation to Northern Territory non-government schools occurred because the Commonwealth Schools Commission's advice on which State allocations in the principal Act were based involved application of a new formula. The reduction in respect of the Northern Territory came to attention after the Act was passed.

NOTES ON CLAUSES

Clause 1 Short title

Clause 2 provides that the legislation will come into operation on the day on which it receives Royal Assent

Clause 3 amends section 18 of the Principal Act by increasing the limit on grants from \$68,231,000 to \$69,273,000, an increase of \$1,042,000. This section limits the amounts the Minister may authorise for projects that are in accord with the objects of the Act but which are not conducted in connection with, or for the purposes of, schools or TAFE colleges. As funds for such projects are provided from amounts provided for government schools and TAFE institutions, the amount the Minister may authorise is limited to the total of the amounts provided for government schools and for TAFE.

Clause 4 amends section 21 by reducing the limit of grants from \$654,000 to \$649,000. In order to increase the allocation to Northern Territory non-government schools referred to in the Outline above and still remain within the limit of funds approved for the total program, it is necessary to transfer funds from this allocation which is for projects and programs of national significance. Although an additional \$11,000 is provided for Northern Territory non-government schools, the reduction to grants for projects and programs of national significance is only \$5,000 after the remaining funds are adjusted for cost increases.

Clause 5 amends section 24 by increasing the total of grants which the Minister may authorise in respect of 1985 and 1986 from \$73,408,000 to \$74,482,000.

Clause 6 repeals the Schedules to the Act which set out the grants available to the individual States for government school, non-government school and technical and further education projects and programs in 1984 and substitutes Schedules which detail the supplemented grants. The amount for Northern Territory non-government schools is also increased by the \$11,000 mentioned above.

Clause 7 provides that payments made under the Principal Act shall be deemed to have been made for the purposes of that Act as amended by the changes proposed in this Bill.

