

1985

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATES GRANTS (EDUCATION ASSISTANCE -
PARTICIPATION AND EQUITY)

AMENDMENT BILL 1985

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

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

May 1985

STATES GRANTS (EDUCATION ASSISTANCE -
PARTICIPATION AND EQUITY) AMENDMENT BILL 1985

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 last amending legislation in October 1984. 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 1985 and 1986 will be increased by \$1,518,000 from \$80,885,000 to \$82,403,000.

This amendment also provides for the Minister to delegate her powers in respect of Technical and Further Education projects and programs to the Chairman of the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission. This is consistent with the practice for Technical and Further Education projects under the States Grants (Tertiary Education Assistance) Act.

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 sub-section 18(1A) of the Principal Act by increasing the limit on grants from \$74,406,000 to \$75,804,000 an increase of \$1,398,000. 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 sub-section 21(2) by increasing the limit of grants from \$697,000 to \$710,000. This section provides funds for projects and programs of national significance.
- Clause 5 amends Part VIA, Section 22B by increasing the limit of grants from \$1,159,000 to \$1,180,000. Grants under Part VIA are for projects or programs related as Aboriginal education.
- Clause 6 amends Section 24 by increasing the total of grants which the Minister may authorise in respect of 1986 from \$80,885,000 to \$82,403,000.
- Clause 7 amends paragraph 31 (1) (b) to extend the Minister's powers of delegation, in respect of Technical and Further Education (TAFE), to the Chairman of the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission. Under the Principal Act powers in relation to TAFE can presently be delegated to the Chairman of the TAFE Council or to the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission.

This amendment is consistent with the States Grants (Tertiary Education Assistance) Act which allows the Minister to delegate powers to a full-time Commissioner, i.e, in respect of TAFE this means the Chairman of CTEC as well as the Chairman of the TAFE Council.

Clause 8 repeals the Schedules to the Act which set out the grants available in 1985 to the individual States for projects and programs in government schools, non-government schools and technical and further education institutions and substitutes Schedules which detail the supplemented grants.

Clause 9 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.