

1990

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SOCIAL SECURITY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1990

SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

New Clause and Amendment to be Moved on Behalf of the
Government

(Circulated by authority of the Minister for Social Security,
Senator the Hon Graham Richardson)



**SOCIAL SECURITY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL 1990**

OUTLINE

The amendments provide that the rate of unemployment or sickness benefit payable to a person who is married, has not turned 18 and who does not have a dependent child is \$95.10 per week.

The amendments also ensure that an unemployment beneficiary is not to incur a postponement period in the payment of benefit if it is necessary for the beneficiary to move for the purpose of treating or alleviating a physical disease or illness suffered by the beneficiary or a family member.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The amendments have negligible financial impact.

NOTES ON NEW CLAUSE AND AMENDMENT

New Clause - Insertion of new clause 8A: Unemployment benefits

A person who reduces his or her employment prospects by moving to a new place of residence without sufficient reason for the move incurs a twelve week postponement period of payment of benefit. A person is accepted as having a sufficient reason if the person moves to live with a family member who is already resident in that new place of residence or near a family member who is already resident in the new place.

New clause 8A would provide that it is also a sufficient reason, and thus a person will not have payment of his or her benefit postponed, if the person satisfies the Secretary to the Department of Social Security that the move is necessary for the purpose of treating or alleviating a physical disease or illness suffered by the person or a family member. The new clause would have negligible financial impact.

Clause 8A would commence on the day of Royal Assent.

Amendment - Clause 9 : Rate of unemployment and sickness benefit

The amendment would specify that the rate of benefit payable under clause 9(1)(a) to a person who is married, has not turned 18 and has no dependent child is \$95.10 per week. This is the same rate as that payable to a person who is single, has not turned 18, does not have a dependent child and who is an independent young person or a homeless person.