

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT
(CARER PENSION AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 1995

SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Hon Janice Crosio MP,
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Social Security,
representing the Minister for Social Security)

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC
SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
SUVA, FIJI

AMENDMENTS TO THE
SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT
(CARER PENSION AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 1995

OUTLINE AND FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The amendment affects the *Data-matching Program (Assistance and Tax) Act 1990* (the Act) and ensures that there is a reference to the Department of Human Services and Health in the definition of "assistance agency" in section 3 of that Act.

The Department of Human Services and Health is to be an "assistance agency" under the Act for the purposes extending data-matching activity to childcare assistance.

The amendment has no financial impact.

NOTES ON AMENDMENT

Part 3 of Schedule 2 provides for amendments to be made to the ***Data-matching Program (Assistance and Tax) Act 1990*** (the Data-matching Act) to facilitate the extension of data-matching activity to childcare assistance.

Effectively, only those agencies that are specified as "assistance agencies" in section 3 of the Data-matching Act may participate in data-matching and only those activities defined in section 3 as "personal assistance" may be the subject of data-matching activity.

The existing Item 11 purports to correctly describe the "assistance agency" associated with the "personal assistance" activity of childcare assistance by amending a reference to the Department of *Community* Services and Health in paragraph (a) of the definition of "assistance agency" to read the Department of *Human* Services and Health. The Department of *Community* Services and Health was previously involved in the data-matching program in relation to the First Home Owners Scheme.

However, paragraph (a) of the definition of "assistance agency" in section 3 was recently omitted by amendments made in the ***Social Security (Non- Budget Measures) Legislation Amendment Act 1995***. Accordingly, item 11, as currently drafted, will be ineffective.

The Government amendment corrects this.