

1988

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

The Senate

War Crimes Amendment Bill 1987

Amendments and New Clauses to be  
Moved on behalf of the Government

Supplementary Explanatory Memorandum

(Circulated by the Authority of the Deputy Prime Minister  
and Attorney-General, the Honourable Lionel Bowen)

Amendments and New Clauses to be Moved on Behalf  
of the Government to the War Crimes Amendment Bill 1987

Outline

The purpose of the amendments to be moved to the War Crimes Amendment Bill 1987 is to -

- (i) clarify in new proposed section 8 the effect of proposed sections 6 and 7; in particular, to clarify the disjunctive effect of proposed subsections 7(1) and (3);
- (ii) enable the Attorney-General in proposed section 16A to authorise legal or financial assistance to an applicant who is charged with an offence under the legislation; and
- (iii) require the Attorney-General in proposed section 18 to table an annual report on the progress of investigations and prosecutions under the legislation.

Financial Impact Statement

It is not possible at this stage to estimate with any meaningful accuracy the financial implications of the assistance provision. Much will depend on the length and complexity of any committal proceedings and trials.

Notes on Clauses

Proposed section 8

This provision is intended to clarify the effect of proposed sections 6 and 7; in particular, the disjunctive effect of proposed subsections 7(1) and (3).

Proposed section 16A

This provision will enable the Attorney-General to authorise legal or financial assistance to an applicant who is charged with an offence under the legislation.

Proposed section 18

This provision requires the Attorney-General to table an annual report on the progress of investigations and prosecutions under the legislation.