Ministers of State Amendment Bill 1989

Date Introduced: 2 March 1989
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. Stewart West, M.P., Minister for Administrative Services

Digest of Bill

Purpose
To amend the Ministers of State Act 1952 (the Principal Act) to accommodate the effect of the 4% second tier wage increase of 1987, the 3% increase granted by the August 1988 national wage case decision and a 2.2% increase recommended by the Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal).

Background
The Tribunal was established in 1973 to inquire into, and report on, the remuneration that should be paid to the holders of various positions, including Ministers of the Parliament and the judiciary. In performing its functions, the Tribunal is required to take account of the principles laid down by the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission.

In Report No. 2 of 1988, the Tribunal recommended new levels of salaries for Ministers. The adjustment in salaries recommended by the Tribunal are in accordance with the 4% second tier wage increase of 1987 and the 3% increase of August 1988 made by the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission.

In 1987 the Tribunal was requested to hold an anomalies conference for the purpose of considering whether special and extraordinary circumstances existed to find an anomaly, with respect to parliamentarians' salaries, under the wage fixing principles. The parties to the conference agreed that an anomaly had existed for a considerable time and that there should be an increase of 3.8% effective from 1 July 1987, and an increase of 2.2% effective from 1 July 1988. The Tribunal in Report No. 2 of 1987, recommended salary increases in accordance with those of the anomalies conference. However, the Tribunal remained of the view that despite the resolution of the anomaly, in its opinion, members of the Parliament remain significantly underpaid.

Main Provisions
The Bill will come into effect upon receiving the Royal Assent (clause 2).

Section 5 of the Principal Act will be amended by inserting $820 000 as the new annual sum payable for the salaries of Ministers (clause 3).
For further information, if required, contact the Economics and Commerce Group.

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Bills Digest Service
Legislative Research Service

This Digest does not have any official legal status. Other sources should be consulted to determine the subsequent official status of the Bill.

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