National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits Determination Revocation and Tribunal Membership) Amendment Bill 1989 (Private Senator's Bill)

Date Introduced: 5 September 1989
House: Senate
Portfolio: Senator Christopher Puplick

Digest of Bill

Purpose
To overturn a recent decision of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal) and change the composition of the Tribunal.

Background
Refer to the Digest for the National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits Determinations) Bill 1989 (Private Senator's Bill).

Main Provisions
The Bill will operate from the day it receives Royal Assent or 30 September 1989, whichever is earlier (clause 2).

Clause 3 provides that the determination of the Tribunal dated 28 August 1989 will have no effect.

A new paragraph 98A(2)(b), which will be substituted into the National Health Act 1953 (the Principal Act) by clause 4, will provide that the two members additional to the Chairperson to be appointed, by the Minister, to the Tribunal, are to be persons who have qualifications, knowledge and experience relevant to the pharmaceutical profession or industry.

A new sub-section 98BA(2A), which will be inserted into the Principal Act by clause 5, will provide that the Tribunal, when holding an inquiry to determine whether the Commonwealth price of pharmaceuticals benefits should be varied, is to have regard to the need to ensure that changes in price of those benefits help the provision of health care services.