States Grants (Schools Assistance) Amendment Bill 1988

Date Introduced: 27 April 1988
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. John Dawkins, MP, Minister for Employment, Education and Training

Digest of Bill

Purpose
To supplement grants for schools in 1988 for cost increases; to modify conditions relating to the eligibility of non-government schools for grants.

Background
The States Grants (Schools Assistance) Act 1984 provides grants for government and non-government schools for the period 1985–1988. The Act is amended regularly to adjust grants for cost increases. The supplementation provided for by this Bill amounts to $21 million.

The Bill will also loosen some of the conditions governing the funding of new non-government schools. These conditions were introduced by the States Grants (Schools Assistance) Amendment Act 1985 following the recommendations of the Report of the Panel of Commonwealth School Commissioners entitled Planning and Funding Policies for New Non-Government Schools (March 1985). The purpose of the new provisions was to ensure that publicly funded expansion in the non-government sector was in accordance with the planned education provision in any given locality. The bill will not change this policy, but will relax some procedures.

The Bill also contains a number of minor amendments, the most significant of which will:

• restrict eligibility for general education grants under the English as a Second-Language Program to persons with permanent residency status;

• amend the definition of 'full fee paying private overseas secondary student' to include part-time students.
Main Provisions

Clauses 3 and 4 will amend Sections 6A and 7A of the Principal Act respectively to remove the requirement for non-government school authorities to notify the Minister of a change in location of a school where the new location is adjacent to the existing one and where it does not involve a change in the level of education provided.

Clause 5 will amend Sections 28 and 29 to enable new non-government schools serving developing areas to receive establishment grants. Previously such schools had to be situated in such areas.

Clause 6 substitutes new financial schedules to provide for supplemented grants.

For further information, if required, contact the Education and Welfare Group.

26 May 1988

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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