Date introduced: 21 August 1985
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. J.S. Dawkins, M.P., Minister for Trade and Minister Representing the Minister for Education

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To increase fees payable by overseas students at tertiary institutions.

Background

Fees for overseas students at tertiary education institutions were introduced in 1979 by the Overseas Students Charge Act (the Principal Act). The government's current policy on fees for overseas students was announced on 22 March 1985 after the government had considered two recent reports on the matter, i.e. those of the Committee of Review of Private Overseas Students (the Goldring Report) and the Committee to Review the Australian Overseas Aid Program (the Jackson Report).

As part of its policy, the Government intends:

. to recover 35% of the full cost of a place in 1986 and 45% in 1987.

. to apply a limit on the total number of subsidised overseas students through an annual quota. The 1986 intake is to remain unchanged from the 1985 limit.

. to continue to pay the fees for students from Papua New Guinea and Pacific Island countries and for students sponsored by the Australian Development Assistance Bureau. This is estimated to cost approximately $5.5m in 1985/86.
Outline

The Principal Act is to be amended to increase the annual fees that may be prescribed by regulation to 35% of the cost of the education, i.e. $4,340 for courses in medicine, veterinary science and dentistry; and $3,500 for all other courses.

Main Provisions

The Bill will come into force on the day it receives the Royal Assent (clause 2).

Increases in the fees payable are contained in clause 4 which amends section 6 of the Principal Act.

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

10 September 1985

Bills Digest Service
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE

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