Purpose

To appropriate $121,864,000 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, in addition to the sum appropriated by the Appropriation Act (No. 2) 1983-84, for capital works and services, payments to or for the States and the Northern Territory, and for other services.

Background

This Bill forms part of the Additional Estimates for 1983-84. Nearly half of the additional appropriations are required for natural disaster relief and restoration. The remainder is for post-Budget cost and price increases.

Outline

A detailed outline of the appropriations is provided in the Schedule to the Bill. The largest amount of funds is being sought by the Department of Finance ($69.8 million). Of this amount, $46.6 million is provided for natural disaster relief and restoration.

An amount of $18.6 million is sought by the Department of Health, of which $15 million is for payments in lieu of Medicare benefits for prescribed diagnostic services in respect of private patients in recognised hospitals.

Main Provisions

Clause 3 allows the Minister for Finance to issue $121,864,000 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for purposes set out in the Schedule of the Bill, for the year ending 30 June 1984.
Clause 4 provides that the proposed appropriations shall be deemed to have been appropriated as from 1 July 1983.

Clause 5 contains specific provisions relating to the terms and conditions of payments to be made to the States and the Northern Territory. The Minister for Finance will determine the terms and conditions of payments to the States and the Northern Territory for natural disaster relief and restoration. Payments to Tasmania in relation to the termination of the Gordon River Power Development Stage Two will be in accordance with terms and conditions determined by the Minister for Finance.

For further information, if required, contact:

4 April 1984

Economics and Commerce Group
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE