AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AMENDMENT BILL 1984

Date Introduced: 9 May 1984
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. J.S. Dawkins, M.P., Minister Representing the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To amend the Australian National University Act 1946 in order to remove restrictions on the use of fees collected from students for amenities and services.

Background

The Principal Act was amended in 1979 and 1981 to insert a new section 29A which provided that fees payable to the University for the provision of services and amenities that are not of an academic nature (or income generated by the application of moneys obtained from such fees) -

(a) should not be made available to an organisation of students unless the University Council was satisfied that the governing body of the organisation was representative of students;

(b) should be for the provision of amenities and services which would directly benefit the University;

(c) should not be paid to any national organisation representing students unless the Council was satisfied that such an organisation had the principal object -

(i) of encouraging student sporting and recreational activities;

(ii) of promoting student interests in some particular educational, cultural or social field;

(iii) of promoting the interests of post-graduate students.
This Bill will remove these restrictions by repealing section 29A. The responsibility for supervision of income from fees will revert to the University Council.

The Bill also contains a number of minor amendments to the Act. These include provisions for:

- the removal of sex-discriminatory language;
- the addition of student representation to the Board of the Institute of Advanced Studies;
- the establishment of the position of Treasurer as an office of the University;
- the up-dating of penalties for traffic offences on University land.

Main Provisions

Clause 16 provides for the removal of restrictions on the University Council in respect of fees for the provision of amenities and services. This will restore the powers of the Council as they existed before the 1979 amendments.

Clause 18 repeals section 29A.

For further information, if required, contact:

22 May 1984

Education and Welfare Group
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE