Date Introduced: 4 October 1984
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. J.S. Dawkins, Minister representing the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To amend the States Grants (Education Assistance - Participation and Equity) Act 1983 to provide funds for the Participation and Equity Program (PEP).

Background

The PEP was introduced in 1984 with the objective of encouraging young people over the school leaving age to participate in useful and fulfilling education activities in schools and TAFE. Particular attention is paid to students with disadvantaged backgrounds and schools with low retention rates in order to foster more equal outcomes of schooling. The PEP subsumed the School to Work Transition Program operated by the previous Government.

The Principal Act provides grants for PEP for 1984-86, although it does not specify the distribution of 1985 and 1986 grants between States and sectors. The Bill will amend the Principal Act to:

- adjust 1984-86 grants for cost increases;
- provide an additional $4m for PEP projects in TAFE in 1985 and 1986;
- distribute 1985 grants amongst the States and sectors;
- allocate some 1985 funds to specific Aboriginal education programs.
Outline

The Principal Act, as amended by this Bill, will provide the following grants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1984</th>
<th>1985</th>
<th>1986</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Schools</td>
<td>40,146</td>
<td>39,840</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Government Schools</td>
<td>4,686</td>
<td>4,623</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>TAFE</td>
<td>30,217</td>
<td>34,566</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects of National Significance</td>
<td>663</td>
<td>697</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal Education Programs</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,159</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>75,712</td>
<td>80,885</td>
<td>80,885</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Main Provisions

Apart from the provisions adjusting the level of grants the major new provision of the Bill is clause 10. This provides a new Part VIA of the Principal Act which will enable the Minister to authorise grants for projects and programs related to Aboriginal education.

For further information, if required, contact:

11 October 1984
Education and Welfare Group
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE