Date Introduced: 17 November 1983
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 provide funds for the Participation and Equity Program.

Background

In the guidelines issued to the education Commissions by the Minister for Education on 28 July 1983 the Government announced details of a new Participation and Equity Program to be established in 1984. The object of the program is to encourage young people over the school leaving age to participate in education and training activities in schools and TAFE. The program will subsume the existing transition from School to Work Program and will be administered by the Schools Commission and the TAFE Council of the Tertiary Education Commission, with the Department of Education and Youth Affairs responsible for co-ordination.

Outline

The Bill provides $73.408m p.a. for the years 1984, 1985 and 1986. The breakdown of the 1984 funds is as follows:

- government schools, $40.043m
- non-government schools, $4.523m
- TAFE, $28.188m
- projects of national significance, $0.654m
Main Provisions

Clause 3 defines the objects of the program.

Clause 6 prevents the Minister from approving projects unless the Minister is satisfied that the benefits of a project will be equally available to both sexes or, that the project will promote equal opportunities for either sex.

Clauses 7, 10, 11 and 14 provide that the Minister may authorise payments to the States for approved projects and programs in connection with:

- government schools (Clause 7, Schedule 1);
- non-government schools (Clauses 10 and 11, Schedule 2);
- TAFE institutions (Clause 14, Schedule 3).

Clause 17 will authorise payments to the States for approved projects that are not in any of the three categories given above.

Clause 20 will authorise payments to the States for projects of national significance.

Clause 23 provides that payments to a State shall not be authorised unless the State has established a committee with representation approved by the Commonwealth Minister for Education to advise of the implementation of the Participation and Equity Program.

For further information, if required, contact:

23 November 1983

Education and Welfare Group
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE