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RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT BILL 1981

Date Introduced: 10 March 1981
House: Senate
Presented by: Senator Hon. P.D. Durack, Attorney-General

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To up-date references in the Racial Discrimination Amendment Act 1980 to the legislation setting up the Human Rights Commission (HRC).

Background and Provisions

The Racial Discrimination Amendment Bill introduced in 1979, concerned the relationship between the Commissioner for Community Relationships and HRC. It provided for the Commissioner's functions to become functions of the HRC but to be performed by the Commissioner subject to directions from the HRC. It also altered the powers of the Commissioner in relation to compulsory conferences and conciliation committees.

The commencement of the Bill was tied to the coming into operation of the Human Rights Commission Bill introduced in 1979 which was not passed and lapsed on prorogation (see Bills Digest of the Human Rights Commission Bill 1981). The Racial Discrimination Bill was passed in 1980. It contains several references as if the Human Rights Commission had become an Act in 1980.

This Bill replaces references in the Racial Discrimination Amendment Act 1980 to the lapsed HRC legislation with references to the HRC Bill that has been reintroduced. These relate to commencement (clause 3), interpretation (clause 4) and the functions of the HRC (clause 5).

For further information, if required, contact:

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