DEPARTMENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE
BILLS DIGEST INFORMATION SERVICE

STATES GRANTS (SCHOOLS ASSISTANCE) AMENDMENT BILL 1981

Date Introduced: 30 April 1981
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. W. Fife, M.P., Minister for Education

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To adjust for cost increases in respect of 1980 and 1981 the specific purpose grants, administered by the Schools Commission, to government and non-government schools in the States and the Northern Territory.

To give effect to Government commitments to extend programs and to introduce new programs.

Background

In its 1980 election policy, the Government undertook to provide $25m over three years for capital grants for new places in non-government schools throughout Australia. The Government also decided to compress the current six-level subsidy scheme to non-government schools into three levels before the end of 1983, with a basic grant of 20 per cent of standard running costs for all schools, to be supplemented in the case of needier schools. As a first step towards its promise that the general recurrent per capita grants to Level 6 schools in the States and Territories would be increased to 40 per cent of government schools' standard running costs, Level 6 primary and secondary schools are to receive in 1981 per capita grants equivalent to 36 and 35 per cent respectively of government schools' costs. In accordance with the Government's guidelines, the linkage of general recurrent grants payable to all non-government schools to a percentage of standard government schools running costs will be maintained in 1981.

A report of the Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs in September 1980 recommended Federal Government grants of $30 per student per annum to ethnic schools. The Government announced that it would provide such assistance to non-profit, part-time ethnic schools.

A national survey of special education undertaken for the Schools Commission by the Schonell Educational...
Research Centre in 1978-9, found that 30 per cent of severely handicapped children in long-term residential care had no educational or related activities and 38 per cent did not receive full-time schooling. The Government has therefore promised to facilitate the development of education programs for severely handicapped children either in institutions or in their homes.

Main Provisions

Amendments to States Grants (Schools Assistance) Act 1979

New Schedules (Schedule 1, pp.8-12) will finalise the adjustment of 1980 grants. A further appropriation of $7.3m is provided in additional grants in respect of the increase in the cost of the salary and wage content of recurrent grants for 1980.

Amendments to States Grants (Schools Assistance) Act 1980

New Schedules (Schedule 2, pp.13-17) provide for an adjustment of $27.7m for cost increases for 1981 programs and for new programs announced by the Government.

Sections 15 to 17 of the Principal Act provide for the approval of and grants to building and equipment projects for non-government schools. Clauses 7 to 10 amend these sections and insert new section 17A which with new Schedule 5A (p.15) provides for the first stage of the Government's commitment to provide $25m over three years for capital grants for new places in non-government schools throughout Australia. Up to $7,419,000 will be made available in 1981 to the States and the Northern Territory for building and equipment projects relating to facilities for additional students in non-government schools.

Sections 18 and 19 of the Principal Act provide for grants for recurrent expenditure in non-government schools at the levels shown in Schedule 6. In accordance with the Government's decision to compress the current six-level subsidy scheme to non-government schools into three levels before the end of 1983, levels 2 and 3 now attract the same level of assistance for both primary and secondary students (new Schedule 6, p.15).

Grants for multicultural education are provided for in ss.30 to 34 of the Principal Act. New sections 34A to 34C (clause 11) implement the Government's commitment to assist programs of non-profit ethnic education. An annual amount, not exceeding $30, may be paid to the States for approved education authorities for each student undertaking supplementary language instruction (not English) or language
in conjunction with ethnic cultural instruction other than wholly or predominantly of a political or religious nature.

Section 41 is amended by the provision of $1,059,000 instead of $1,000,000 for expenditure in relation to approved programs for the integration of handicapped children into ordinary government or non-government schools (clause 12).

New sections 41A to 41C provide for new programs for the education of severely handicapped children and for expenditure for these programs of up to $2,117,500 (clause 13).

The Bill provides funds for the following programs in 1981:

Government Schools (Schedule 1 - s.7)

- Building and equipment projects: $110,170,000
- Recurrent expenditure: $237,744,500
  - Total: $347,914,500

Migrant Education Recurrent Expenditure
(Schedule 2 - ss.9, 23)

- Government schools: $28,641,500
- Non-government schools: $12,165,000
  - Total: $40,806,500

Disadvantaged Schools and Disadvantaged Country Areas (Schedule 3 - ss. 11, 26, 36)

- Government schools: $21,950,500
- Non-government schools: $3,401,500
- Country areas: $5,934,000
  - Total: $31,286,000

Special Schools (Schedule 4 - ss. 13, 28)

- Government schools: $14,434,500
- Non-government schools: $3,794,500
  - Total: $18,229,000
Non-Government Schools (Schedules 5, 5A and 6 - ss. 17,17A,18,19) $ 

Building and equipment projects 33,038,500
Building and equipment projects relating to facilities for additional students 7,419,000

Recurrent expenditure:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Assistance</th>
<th>$ Amount per Primary School Student</th>
<th>$ Amount per Secondary School Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2)</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3)</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>703</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Miscellaneous Grants (Schedule 7 - ss. 20,45,47 and 50)

Non-government schools short-term emergency assistance 679,500
Temporary transfer of teachers etc. 140,000
Education centres 1,694,000
Special projects 3,560,000

Multicultural Education (Schedule 8 - ss. 31,34)

Grants to the States 3,119,500
Approved projects 277,500

Residential Institutions (Schedule 9 - s.38) 1,620,500

Service and Development Activities (Schedule 10 - s.43) 13,329,500

For further information, if required, contact:

5 May 1981

Education and Welfare Group

Legislative Research Service