PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
DEPARTMENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY

DELIVERED MEALS SUBSIDY AMENDMENT BILL 1980

Date Introduced: 20 August 1980
House: House of Representatives

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To amend the Delivered Meals Subsidy Act 1970 to increase the assistance available to organizations providing meals on wheels.

Background

The Principal Act was introduced by the Gorton Liberal Country Party Government in 1970 to provide a stimulus to meals on wheels services which had been established by voluntary organisations, without Commonwealth aid. The Delivered Meals Subsidy Act 1970 was one of a package of Acts introduced at that time to encourage and enable elderly and disabled people to live in their own homes. The others were the States Grants (Home Care) Act 1969, States Grants (Paramedical Services) Act 1969 and the States Grants (Dwellings for Aged Pensioners) Act 1969.

Since 1970 almost 60 million meals have been delivered, including 8.35 million in 1979-80. At 30 June 1980 some 671 separate services were being funded, with subsidies in 1979-80 totalling $2.493m. Total estimated expenditure for financial year 1980-81 is $3.94m.

Provisions

Sub-section 6 (1) of the Principal Act is amended to increase the subsidy from 30 cents to 45 cents for every delivered meal which includes fresh fruit or fruit juice and for every other delivered meal the amendment increases the subsidy from 25 cents to 40 cents.

The new subsidy levels will be calculated for all meals delivered on or after 1 July 1980 (clause 4).

25 August 1980
Education and Welfare Group
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE