Parliament of Australia
Department of the Parliamentary Library

States Grants (Tertiary Education Assistance)
Amendment Bill 1979

Date Introduced: 22 May 1979
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: The Hon. A.A. Staley, Minister for Posts and Telecommunications

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

This Bill will:

(a) amend the States Grants (Tertiary Education Assistance) Acts of 1977 and 1978 to provide additional funds in respect of cost increases, and

(b) amend the States Grants (Tertiary Education Assistance) Act of 1978 to provide for:

i) expenditure on additional university and college of advanced education capital projects in 1979,

ii) fixed triennial funding of the recurrent expenditure of colleges of advanced education,

iii) modifications to the conditions for the funding of special initiatives in the training of TAFE colleges,

iv) additional funds (in excess of cost increases) for approved advanced education level courses in TAFE institutions, and

v) the assistance of non-government business colleges.

Background

On the 19 October 1978, the Minister for Education stated in the Senate that, due to a shortfall in the 1978 tertiary capital program, the Government had decided to defer expenditure from the program until the second half of 1979. This Bill will give effect to that decision, enabling the commencement of additional university and college capital projects.
In June 1978 the Government decided to reintroduce fixed triennial funding for recurrent grants (other than equipment grants) for the tertiary sectors. However, the Tertiary Education Commission did not complete its recommendations on recurrent grants for colleges for 1980 and 1981 in time for their inclusion in the Principal Act. This Bill incorporates these grants. Arrangements for TAFE recurrent grants for 1980 and 1981 will be announced after the Government has considered the Report of the Williams Committee.

The arrangements for assistance to non-government business colleges included in this Bill follow the decisions of the Government announced on 6 December 1978. Those decisions were taken on the basis of the Tertiary Education Commission's Report on non-government business colleges.

The Minister has stated that the measures taken in this Bill will raise the total grants for each tertiary sector to the following levels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>1978</th>
<th>1979</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Universities</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleges of Advanced Education</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAFE</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As well as the adjustment for cost increases, the 1979 grants given above also include:

a) the deferred $4.1m from the 1978 capital program for additional capital projects in universities and colleges of advanced education

b) a real increase of $485,000 for grants for approved courses of advanced education in TAFE institutions.

Major Provisions

Part II amends the States Grants (Tertiary Education Assistance) Act 1977 to adjust grants for 1978 in respect of cost increases. These are specified in Schedule 1 of the Bill.

Part III amends the States Grants (Tertiary Education Assistance) Act 1978 to adjust grants for 1979 in respect of cost increases. These are specified in Schedule 2 of the Bill.

Clause 14 introduces fixed triennial funding for colleges of advanced education.
Clause 18 repeals s.19 of the Principal Act, and Clause 23 inserts a new s.30E to replace that which was repealed. The effect of this change is to enable state instrumentalities as well as colleges of advanced education to be eligible for grants for TAFE teacher training initiatives.

Clause 22 of the Bill makes provision for grants to the States for the funding of non-government business colleges. The essential features of this program are:

a) colleges shall receive assistance at a rate of $55 per student per month to a maximum of $550 per student per annum. [s.30D (2) and (3)]

b) assistance for 1979 will only be given for those colleges with students undertaking courses which have been approved by the Minister and which were in existence in 1978. [s.30B]

c) colleges receiving assistance will be required to achieve non-profit status by the end of 1979. [s.30D(6)]