



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**SOCIAL SECURITY (FAMILY
ALLOWANCE AND RELATED MATTERS)
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1999**

Second Reading

SPEECH

Wednesday, 9 June 1999

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH

Date Wednesday, 9 June 1999
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Questioner
Speaker Truss, Warren, MP

Source House
Proof No
Responder
Question No.

Mr TRUSS (Wide Bay—Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) (9.32 am)—I move:

That the bill be now read a second time.

This government recognises the integral role the family plays in Australian society. This government wants to improve the assistance that families can get through the tax and social security systems.

This bill amends the Social Security Act 1991 to introduce improvements to the assistance currently provided by government to families. Specifically, this bill:

- . extends qualification for family allowance so that it covers both job seekers and students who have turned 16, and continues until age 21 for job seekers, and until age 25 for full-time students;

- . increases the fortnightly rate of family allowance to \$50, payable in respect of a young person who is aged 18 to under 21, or who is undertaking full-time study and is aged 21 to under 25; and

- . ensures that certain young persons are not inadvertently deprived of a health care card by force of these amendments.

These amendments will commence with effect from 1 October 1999 and will provide assistance to families of \$42 million in the 1999-2000 financial year, making a positive impact on the living standards of Australian families, particularly those with low incomes.

Complementary amendments to the A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Bill 1999 will take effect from the commencement of that act, that is 1 July 2000, to ensure the continuance of these changes under the government's tax reform package.

I commend the bill to the House and present the explanatory memorandum.

Debate (on motion by **Mr Martin Ferguson**) adjourned.