

1985

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CENSUS AND STATISTICS AMENDMENT BILL 1985

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Minister Assisting the
Treasurer, the Hon. Chris Hurford MP)

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GENERAL OUTLINE

The main purpose of this Bill is to amend the Census and Statistics Act 1905 (the Act) to enable the external Territories to be included in the 1986 and future Censuses of Population and Housing.

The opportunity has also been taken to overcome a technical difficulty with the existing wording of Section 14 of the Act.

Financial Impact

The additional cost to the ABS of extending the Census to the external Territories is estimated as \$58,000.

NOTES ON CLAUSES OF THE BILL

Clause 1 provides for the short title of the Bill and specifies the Act to be amended

Clause 2 amends the principal Act by inserting a new section 2.

Proposed Section 2

This Section is an enabling provision. It provides authority for the external Territories to be included in the 1986 and future censuses of population and housing where this is seen as desirable.

It is intended that the Territories which are to be included in any particular census will be prescribed in a Regulation.

Clause 3 amends Section 14 of the principal Act. It overcomes a technical difficulty of the existing wording, but does not change the intention of the existing provision, which is to ensure that a person is not liable to any penalty for omitting, or refusing to state the religious denomination or sect to which they belong or adhere.