

1980

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CHRISTMAS ISLAND AMENDMENT BILL 1980

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Minister for Home Affairs,
the Honourable R.J. Ellicott, Q.C., M.P.)

CHRISTMAS ISLAND AMENDMENT BILL 1980

Purpose

This Bill will amend the Christmas Island Act 1958. The proposed amendment will introduce new citizenship provisions into the Christmas Island Act 1958 to extend Australian citizenship to any person, not already an Australian citizen, who was ordinarily resident in Christmas Island immediately before its transfer to Australia, who is now ordinarily resident in Australia or an external Territory and who wishes to take up Australian citizenship.

Clause 1 - Short title, etc.

This is a customary provision which sets out the short title - the Christmas Island Amendment Act 1980 - and provides that the Christmas Island Act 1958 is, in the new Act, referred to as the Principal Act.

Clause 2 - Commencement

The Act will come into operation on a date to be fixed by Proclamation.

Clause 3 - Grant of Australian citizenship to certain persons

In effect, this clause repeals the existing residency criteria, the requirement of British subject status and the time limit, for persons eligible to make declarations that they wish to become Australian citizens and substitutes a new Section 15A concerning revised residency criteria and Section 16 defining 'ordinarily resident'.

Clause 4 - Formal amendments

The clause provides for a schedule of amendments of a drafting nature not related to the principal purpose of the Bill.