

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

SENATE

FURTHER 1998 BUDGET MEASURES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT
(SOCIAL SECURITY) BILL 1999

SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Amendments to be moved on behalf of the Government

(Circulated by authority of Senator the Hon Jocelyn Newman,
Minister for Family and Community Services)

NOTES ON AMENDMENTS

These amendments affect the *Social Security Act 1991* (the Social Security Act).

Schedule 12 of the Further 1998 Budget Measures Legislation Amendment (Social Security) Bill 1999 amends the Social Security Act to provide for the lodgment of claims prior to the claimant being qualified for the relevant payment as well as providing for advance payments in certain circumstances. In order to effectively address situations where a person is in severe financial hardship, it is critical that applicants' claims for payment can be determined in a timely manner. Accordingly, Schedule 12 makes provision for people being released from gaol or psychiatric confinement to be able to lodge claims prior to their release.

Schedule 12 also provides for advance payments of social security payments in certain circumstances. Advance payments of all social security payments will be available for people released from gaol or psychiatric confinement and who are in financial hardship. Further, advance payments of social security benefits will be available for claimants who would suffer severe financial hardship if the advance was not paid.

There are no financial implications for these amendments.

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