

1995

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

SENATE

HEALTH AND OTHER SERVICES (COMPENSATION) (CONSEQUENTIAL  
AMENDMENTS) BILL 1994

SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Amendments to be moved on behalf of the Government)

(Circulated by the authority of the Minister for Human  
Services and Health, the Hon. Dr Carmen Lawrence, MP)



HEALTH AND OTHER SERVICES (COMPENSATION) (CONSEQUENTIAL  
AMENDMENTS) BILL 1994

GENERAL OUTLINE

This amendment relates to the *Health and Other Services (Compensation) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 1994*. This is one of four Bills, which aim to prevent double dipping which currently occurs when a person receives a compensation payment to cover past medical and other care costs and does not reimburse the costs of services already received through programs subsidised by the Commonwealth.

This amendment addresses a concern raised by the Privacy Commissioner about a potential gap in privacy protection under the new legislation.

NOTES ON AMENDMENT

This amendment amends the definition of "officer" in the *Health Insurance Act 1973*, so that officers of the Health Insurance Commission exercising functions under the *Health Insurance Commission Act 1973* such as the administration of these Bills, will be bound by the secrecy provisions of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*.