

1986

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATES GRANTS (SCHOOLS ASSISTANCE) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1986

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Minister representing  
the Minister for Education)



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GENERAL OUTLINE OF BILL

The purpose of the Bill is to -

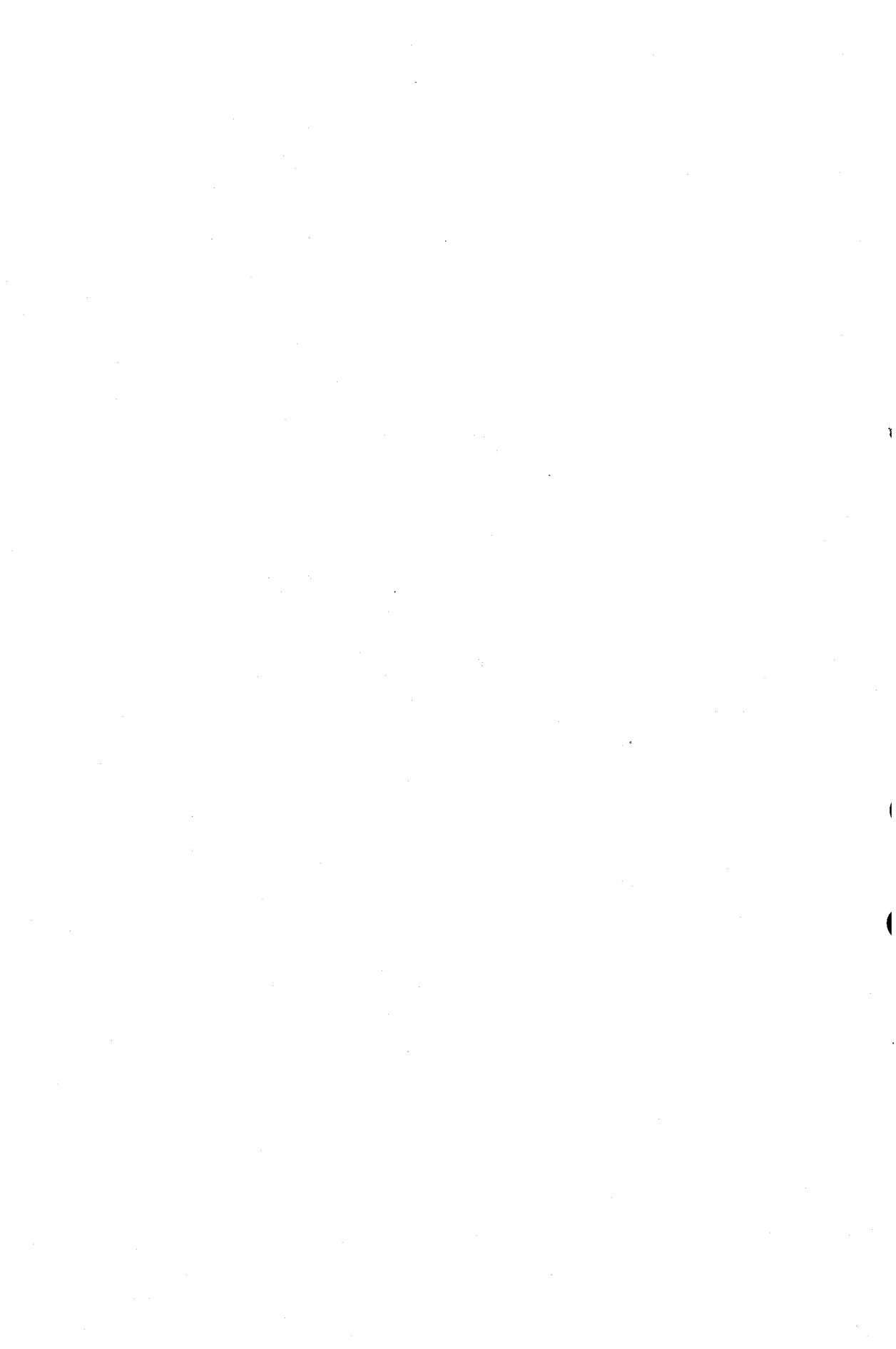
1. Supplement existing financial provisions relating to the 1986, 1987 and 1988 calendar years to take into account increases in price levels.
2. Extend annual programs to the 1987 calendar year and provide financial allocations in respect of these programs in 1987.
3. Implement Government decisions on the operation of the Ethnic Schools Program.
4. Provide for an additional \$4 million in 1987 to support English language teaching under the English as a Second Language Program.
5. Make a number of technical amendments, including amendments to the provisions effecting the amalgamation or separation of non-government schools; to enable due recognition to be given to the funding provided by the Commonwealth for building and equipment projects for schools serving predominantly Aboriginal communities; and to require non-government schools and systems to furnish original documents, if required.

Financial Impact

The Bill appropriates an estimated \$1,614 million for schools programs in calendar year 1987, consisting of \$1,241 million for general recurrent grants, \$209 million for capital grants and \$164 million for specific purpose grants.

The Bill also appropriates a further \$19 million for 1986 programs for price increases in line with retrospective cost supplementation arrangements. This brings total funding for 1986 programs to an estimated \$1,584 million.

The Bill also provides an additional \$47 million for schools programs in 1988.



## NOTES ON CLAUSES

### Clause 1

Short title.

### Clause 2

Act commences upon Royal Assent.

### Clause 3

Inserts definition of an 'authorised person' for the purposes of allowing access to original documents under sections 28 and 29.

### Clauses 4 - 5

Extend existing programs to 1987 and amend financial provisions.

### Clauses 6

Amends section 6A in respect of new non-government systemic schools to:

- (1) allow provisional approval to be given to parts of composite proposals from schools which may occur after 1990.
- (2) amend the advance notification date from, in general, 2 years before the commencement of the year during which a school proposes to commence or initiate a change, to 2 years before 1 March of the year during which a school proposes to commence or initiate a change.
- (3) enable schools which result from amalgamations or separations to receive provisional approval.

### Clause 7

Amends section 6B to change the advance notification date in the same way as for section 6A.

### Clause 8

Amends section 7A in respect of new non-government non-systemic schools to provide parallel provisions to clause 6 for systemic schools.

### Clause 9

Amends section 7B to changed the advance notification date in the same way as for section 7A.

### Clause 10

Inserts new section 7D to provide that schools which result from amalgamations or separations are able to be included on the list of non-government schools.

Clauses 11 - 13

Extend existing programs to 1987.

Clauses 14 - 15

Provide a new language teaching element of the English as a second language program for government schools.

Clauses 16 - 18

Extend existing programs to 1987.

Clause 19

Amends section 19, limits on grants under section 18, by providing that grants to a State in connection with the special education program can be varied, following a request from the State Education Minister, by adjusting amounts between elements of the program. Such a variation shall not have the effect of increasing or decreasing the total grant to the State under this program.

Clauses 20 - 22

Extend existing programs to 1987.

Clauses 23 -24

Amend sections 28 and 29 to provide for schools to allow an authorised person to have access to, or to take copies of, records relating to information that the school has provided to the Commonwealth Education Minister under these sections.

Clauses 25 - 34

Extend existing programs to 1987.

Clause 35

Amends the financial provision for 1986. Appropriates 1987 amounts on a State basis.

Clause 36

Extends existing programs to 1987.

Clause 37

Amends section 52 by providing that due recognition be given to the funding provided by the Commonwealth for building and equipment projects for schools serving predominantly Aboriginal communities. Parallels existing provisions for capital grants in sections 9 and 26.

Clause 38

Extends existing program to 1987.

Clauses 39 - 41

Amend sections 59 - 61 to implement government policy on the Ethnic Schools Program by providing that, except in exceptional circumstances, only ethnic schools authorities which were approved in respect of 1986 and only for programs which were approved in 1986 will be eligible for approval in respect of 1987. In addition, approved programs for 1987, except in exceptional circumstances will have their enrolments limited, for funding purposes, to the 1986 level.

Clauses 42 - 44

Extend existing programs to 1987.

Clauses 45 - 46

Provide for the integration into a joint program in 1987 of the existing separate elements for Early Special Education.

Clause 47

Inserts new sections, 70A, 70B and 70C, to identify a separate element of the special education program - the special education projects of national significance element.

Clause 48 - 50

Extend existing programs to 1987.

Clause 51

Substitutes new financial schedules to extend programs to 1987 and to provide for increases in price levels.

Clause 52

Procedural only.

