

States Grants (Non – Government Business Colleges) Bill 1989

Date Introduced: 1 March 1989

House: House of Representatives

Presented by: Hon. John Dawkins, M.P., Minister for Employment, Education and Training

Digest of Bill

Purpose

To provide grants to the States for non – Government business colleges in respect of students who started courses in such bodies before 24 August 1988.

Background

The scheme to provide assistance to non – Government business colleges commenced in 1974 and aimed to reduce the fees charged for a number of secretarial courses. Funding for the scheme totalled \$2.7 million in 1987 – 88 and is estimated to be \$4.2 million in 1988 – 89.

In the document TAFE – 1989, Commonwealth Programs and Priorities, released by the Minister in August 1988, it was announced that assistance to such bodies would be phased out and no assistance would be provided in respect of students who commenced their courses on or after 24 August 1989. The decision was justified on two main grounds. First, that as part of the general higher education policy no general funding is to be paid to private higher education institutions and, secondly, that the range of courses approved under the scheme is now out of step with modern office practices. Institutions and courses had to be approved by the Minister to be eligible for funding under the scheme.

Main Provisions

Part 2 of the Bill deals with special grants. Clause 6 will authorise the Minister make grants to the States in respect of non – Government business colleges for 1989 if the college was approved in 1988. The maximum grant per student will be \$114.04 and students that commenced on or after 24 August 1988 and overseas students are not to be included in the calculation.

Clause 7 will allow extra grants, to a total of \$1.5 million, to be paid to colleges that received funding in 1988 and had made commitments, prior to 24 August 1988, to continue to provide an approved courses in 1989.

Miscellaneous matters are dealt with in Part 3. The benefits and opportunities of the grants are to be equally available to people of both sexes (clause 8), and the Minister make advances (clause 14).

For further information, if required, contact the Education and Welfare Group.

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Bills Digest Service
Legislative Research Service

This Digest does not have any official legal status. Other sources should be consulted to determine the subsequent official status of the Bill.

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