

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY
COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT AMENDMENT BILL 1986

Date introduced: 12 February 1986
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. Ralph Willis, M.P., Minister
for Employment and Industrial
Relations

DIGEST OF BILL

Purpose

To extend the Community Employment Program by three years to 30 June 1989.

Background

The Community Employment Program (CEP) was introduced in August 1983 to provide short-term employment and work experience for disadvantaged people, particularly the long-term unemployed. Preference is given to people from specially disadvantaged groups, including Aborigines, people with disabilities and migrants with language difficulties.

The CEP has two elements. The States and Territories element is jointly administered by the Commonwealth and the State and Territory governments and provides for projects to be sponsored by State and local government bodies, community groups or other bodies. State Governments are required to contribute at least 30% of the cost of approved projects and the other sponsors at least 20%, though contributions from community groups can be reduced or waived in special circumstances. The Commonwealth element is directly administered by the Commonwealth and provides for projects to be sponsored by Commonwealth departments and instrumentalities and by Aboriginal communities located in remote areas. This element is wholly Commonwealth funded.

In 1983-84, 29 597 people commenced jobs under CEP and Commonwealth expenditure on the program totalled \$285.42 million. In 1984-85, 45 912 people commenced jobs under

CEP. Expenditure in that year totalled \$405.54 million. The average duration of jobs under CEP decreased from 28.1 weeks in 1983-84 to 26.7 weeks in 1984-85.[1] In the May 1985 statement on Government Expenditure Savings the Treasurer announced that CEP funding was to be reduced by \$120 million for 1985-86.[2] Expenditure for 1985-86 is estimated to be approximately \$291 million.[3]

In March 1985 the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations conducted a survey of 600 people (of whom 552 responded) who had completed CEP jobs six months prior to the survey. The survey aimed to determine the employment status of CEP participants. The results of the survey are contained in the following table:

Employment Status of CEP Participants Six Months
After Completion

Employment Status	Percentage
Currently Employed	
Full-time	35.0
Part-time	6.2
Sub-total	41.2
Unemployed	
Looking for Work	52.5
Left labour force	5.3
Total	100.0
	(Sample size 552)
Of which:	
had some employment (full or part-time) since completion of CEP job	58.5
Currently had a job - (full or part-time)	41.1

Source: Department of Employment and Industrial Relations,
1984-85 Annual Report, p.49.

Under section 12 of the Community Employment Act 1983 (the Principal Act) approvals for new projects under CEP was to cease on 30 June 1986. On 10 December 1985 the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations announced that CEP was to be extended to 30 June 1989.

Main Provisions

Clause 3 will amend section 12 of the Principal Act to insert the new termination date of 30 June 1989.

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

28 February 1986

Bills Digest Service
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE

References

1. Department of Employment and Industrial Relations, 1984-85 Annual Report, p.47.
2. House of Representatives, Hansard, 14 May 1985, p.2318.
3. 1985-86 Budget Paper No. 1, p.257.

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