OVERSEAS STUDENTS CHARGE COLLECTION AMENDMENT BILL 1986

Date introduced: 19 August 1986
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. John Dawkins, M.P.,
Minister for Trade

DIGEST OF BILL

Purpose
To exempt certain categories of students from the overseas students charge.

Background
Refer to the Digest for the Overseas Students Charge Amendment Bill 1986 (Digest No. 86/118).

Main Provisions
This Bill will come into operation on the same day as the Overseas Students Charge Amendment Bill 1986 (clause 2).

Clause 3 will insert a new section 4A into the Overseas Students Charge Collection Act 1979 (the Principal Act) which will set out those students who will be exempt from the overseas students charges. These students will be:

(a) postgraduate students on a scholarship worth at least $3500 since before the beginning of 1987;
(b) exchange students;
(c) external students where the period of attendance is not more than 6 weeks per year;
(d) students who are on scholarships worth more than $3500 and that scholarship is available because of an agreement between the institution offering the course and either the Commonwealth, the United Nations Organization or a foreign government;

(e) students who are certified as refugees or stateless people;

(f) students who at the commencement of the enrolment year were "overseas students" within the definition in section 4 of the Overseas Student Charge Act 1979 (as amended by the Overseas Student Charge Amendment Bill 1986) but subsequently ceased to come within that definition;

(g) students who came to Australia before 1 October 1979, studied either years 11 or 12 at school, finishing in 1979, 1980 or 1981 and had already enrolled in a course of higher education commencing for the following year;

(h) students who entered Australia between 1 January and 1 October 1979, completed an intensive English course and subsequently enrolled in a prescribed course in 1980 or 1981.

(j) students enrolled at institutions charging a fee which, in the opinion of the Minister, is equal to or greater than the cost of the course; and

(k) students exempted in the regulations.

Clause 4 will amend section 7 of the Principal Act so that, starting in 1987, where a Commonwealth Department grants a scholarship the Department will no longer be able
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to certify that the liability of the student to pay the charge has been met.

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

Bills Digest Service

9 September 1986

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE

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