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States Grants (Primary and Secondary Education Assistance) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2002

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I N F O R M A T I O N A N D R E S E A R C H S E R V I C E S

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Assistance) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2002

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27 August 2002

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States Grants (Primary and Secondary Education Assistance) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2002

Date Introduced: 21 August 2002

House: House of Representatives

Portfolio: Education, Science and Training

Commencement: Royal Assent

Purpose

The purpose of this Bill is to amend the *States Grants (Primary and Secondary Education Assistance) Act 2000* (the current Act) to make provision for capital funding for government and non-government schools for the years 2005 to 2007.

Background

Capital grants assist government and non-government school authorities with the provision and upgrading of capital infrastructure. This infrastructure includes land, buildings, water and electricity, equipment, library materials and cataloguing services, furniture, and residential accommodation for government school students.

According to the 1999 *National Report on Schooling in Australia* Commonwealth capital grants for schools represent about 7 per cent of total Commonwealth specific purpose payments for schools.¹ The majority of capital grants is allocated to government schools. From 1996 to 2000 capital grants totalled approximately \$1.5 billion of which \$1 078 782 662 was granted to government schools and \$454 117 000 to non-government schools. (Other organisations received \$3 100 194.)²

Schedule 5 of the current Act indicates from 2004 a reduction in non-government school capital grants from \$87 401 000 to \$76 940 000. This change represents a return to the base level of capital funding for non-government schools following a series of budget measures which have since the 1992-93 budget provided additional funding. The current budget measure relating to this extra provision of funds is due to expire in 2003.

Warning:

This Digest was prepared for debate. It reflects the legislation as introduced and does not canvass subsequent amendments.

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

The Bill amends the current Act to provide capital funding for schools totalling \$897 783 000 over the years 2005 to 2007, of which \$666 963 000 will be allocated to government schools and \$230 820 000 to non-government schools. These amounts are subject to supplementation as a result of movements in the Building Price Index.

This Bill is a routine procedure according to standard program administrative arrangements whereby capital grants are approved up to three years in advance of the current calendar year. This is necessitated by the long-term nature of many capital works projects.

Main Provisions

Item 1 inserts into Column 2 of Schedule 3 the maximum capital grant funding amount of \$222 321 000 for government schools for each of the years 2005 to 2007.

Item 4 inserts into Column 2 of Schedule 5 the maximum capital grant funding amount of \$76 940 000 for non-government schools for each of the years 2005 to 2007.

Endnotes

- 1 Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs, *National Report on Schooling in Australia 1999*, Curriculum Corporation for MCEETYA, p. 217.
- 2 Australia. Department of Education, Science and Training, *States Grants (Primary and Secondary Education Assistance) Act 1996: Report on Financial Assistance Granted to each State in Respect of (various years)*, DEST, Canberra, 1992–2002. (Title varies.)

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