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## Student Assistance Amendment Bill 2003

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Dale Daniels  
Social Policy Group  
10 September 2003

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# Student Assistance Amendment Bill 2003

**Date Introduced:** 26 June 2003

**House:** House of Representatives

**Portfolio:** Family and Community Services

**Commencement:** On Royal Assent

## Purpose

To close the Student Financial Supplement Scheme in respect of ABSTUDY students from 1 January 2004.

To amend provisions relating to regulation making powers.

## Background

The Student Financial Supplement Scheme (SFSS) was introduced in 1993 so that Austudy and Abstudy students could gain access to more financial support than those payments offered, in the form of a loan.

A more detailed treatment of the loan scheme and the view of it taken by the political parties and other interest groups is provided in the digest for the Family and Community Services (Closure of Student Financial Supplement Scheme) Bill 2003. That Bill closes the scheme for Youth Allowance, Austudy payment and Pensioner Education Supplement recipients.

## Main Provisions

**Item 3 of Schedule 1** inserts **new Division 1A** into Part 4A of the *Student Assistance Act 1973*. **Proposed section 12AA** of the new Division closes the SFSS to applicants from 1 January 2004. **Items 1-2** and **4-5** make amendments consequential to this closure.

**Item 1 of Schedule 2** inserts **proposed subsection 48(2)** into the *Student Assistance Act 1973*. It has the effect of broadening the regulation making power under the Act.

### **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.*