



Social Security Legislation Amendment (One-off Payments for Carers) Bill 2005

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Social Security Legislation Amendment (One-off Payments for Carers) Bill 2005

Date Introduced: 11 May 2005

House: House of Representatives

Portfolio: Family and Community Services

Commencement: On Royal Assent (25 May 2005)

Purpose

The Bill provided for the payment of bonus payments to carers in receipt of Carer Payment and Carer Allowance. Carer Payment recipients received \$1000 and Carer Allowance recipients received \$600.

Background

The provision of one-off payments to carers was announced in the 2005 Budget. They were made to those eligible for carer payments on Budget night by the end of June 2005. Carer Allowance recipients who received an allowance for more than one care receiver were paid a bonus for care receiver. Where Carer Allowance was shared the bonus was also shared. An administrative scheme was provided for in the Bill to deal with any cases where the statutory scheme produces anomalous results. A Similar set of one-off payments was made to carers in June 2004.

The Bill passed both Houses of the Parliament by 12 May 2005 and received the Royal Assent on 25 May 2005.

Main Provisions

Item 1 Part 1 of Schedule 1 inserted **new parts 2.5B and 2.5C** into the *Social Security Act 1991*. The new parts provided for the payment of one-off bonuses to recipients of Carer Payment and Carer Service Pension.

Item 2 Part 1 of Schedule 1 inserted **new part 2.19B** into the *Social Security Act 1991*. The new part provided for the payment of one-off bonuses to recipients of Carer Allowance.

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.

Part 2 of Schedule 1 amended various provisions in the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936* and the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* to ensure that the bonus payments were income tax free.

Schedule 2 allowed the Minister to set up an administrative scheme for payment of bonuses by legislative instrument.

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