

1987-88-89

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

THE SENATE

(Presented and read a first time, 15 June 1989)

(SENATOR DUNN)

A BILL
FOR

An Act to amend the Child Care Act 1972 to establish targets and standards for the development of a national children's services program, and for related purposes

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen, and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, as follows:

Short title etc.

5 1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Child Care (National Children's Services Program) Amendment Act 1989.

(2) In this Act, "Principal Act" means the Child Care Act 1972.

Commencement

2. This Act commences on the day on which it receives the Royal Assent.

Grants for recurrent expenditure

3. Section 11 of the Principal Act is amended:

(a) by inserting after subsection (6) the following subsection:

"(6A) Where the Minister has given an approval under subsection (1) or (2) in respect of child care centre operated by an eligible organization, the Minister may, in his or her discretion and on behalf of the Commonwealth, if the organization demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Minister that the operating costs of the centre justify doing so, by instrument in writing, approve the making of additional grants to the organization in respect of each quarter of such amounts as the Minister determines.";

(b) by omitting from subsections (12), (14), (15) and (16) "or (5)" and substituting", (5) or (6A)".

4. After Part IVA of the Principal Act the following Parts are inserted:

"PART IVB - CONSIDERATIONS IN MAKING GRANTS OR REVOKING APPROVALS

Matters to be considered in making grants

"13D. The Minister shall not:

- (a) make a grant to an eligible organization under subsection 7(1) or section 10 or 11; or
(b) approve a project under section 13B,

unless the Minister is satisfied that the child care centre to which the grant or approval relates provides, or is capable of providing, in relation to children of pre-school age:

- (c) developmental opportunities and cognitive experiences commensurate with the level of development of those children; and
- (d) remedial intervention programs, where required, to allow those children to reach their full potential.

Matters to be considered in revoking approvals under section 11

"13E. Without limiting the grounds on which an approval under section 11 in respect of a child care centre may be revoked, the Minister may revoke such an approval if the child care centre:

- (a) has failed to provide the opportunities or programs referred to in section 13D; or
- (b) fails to offer services that reflect the cultural diversity of the users or potential users of the centre;

after being given a reasonable opportunity to do so.

"PART IVC - PLANNING FOR CHILD CARE SERVICES

Planning for additional places

"13D. (1) The Minister shall, as soon as practicable after the commencement of this section, determine a plan, to be implemented before the year 2,000, for increasing by at least 200,000 the number of places available at child care centres in Australia, whether funded by the Commonwealth or otherwise.

"(2) In determining the plan, the Minister shall have regard to:

- (a) the need to increase, by the year 2,000, the number of out of school hours places available at child care centres in Australia by at least 120,000; and
- (b) the need to increase, by the year 2,000, the number of extended hours places available at child care centres in Australia by at least 80,000.

"(3) As soon as practicable after determining the plan, the Minister shall determine a strategy for the provision of child care services in Australia beyond the year 2,000.

"(4) In determining the strategy, the Minister shall have regard to the projected need for:

- (a) in relation to extended hours places:
 - (i) 0.75 of a place in a child care centre for each child whose primary carer has full-time employment;
 - (ii) 0.33 of a place in a child care centre for each child whose primary carer has part-time employment (being less than 32 hours per week);
 - (iii) 0.33 of a place in a child care centre for each child whose primary carer is studying full-time or is seeking employment; and
 - (iv) 0.05 of a place in a child care centre for each child whose primary carer is not employed in the workforce;

(b) in relation to out of school hours places

- 5 (i) 0.5 of a place in child care centre for each child who is at least 5 years old but less than 9 years old and whose primary carer has full-time employment;
- (ii) 0.1 of a place in a child care centre for each child who is at least 5 years old but less than 9 years old and whose primary carer has part-time employment (being less than 32 hours per week); and
- 10 (iii) 0.1 of a place in a child care centre for each child who is at least 9 years old and whose primary carer has full-time employment; and

15 (c) places in child care centres during school vacations calculated on a basis similar to that described in paragraphs (a) and (b).

"(5) For the purposes of this section:

20 'out of school hours places' means places at child care centres for the care of children of primary school age;

'extended hours places' means places at child care centres for the care of preschool children for not less than 8 hours per day.

Agreements with States and Territories

25 "13E. The Minister may, on behalf of the Commonwealth, enter into agreements with a State, the Northern Territory or the Australian Capital Territory with a view to the joint funding of child care centres in that State or Territory for the purposes of giving effect to this Part."



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