

# **Juries (Amendment) Bill**

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

*Clause 1* states the purpose of the Act.

*Clause 2* contains the commencement provision.

*Clause 3* provides that in this Act the **Juries Act 1967** is called the Principal Act.

*Clause 4* inserts subsection 13 (5) which allows a court to excuse from further jury service for a period of up to 10 years a juror who has been balloted out in accordance with section 48A.

*Clause 5* substitutes section 14 which provides that every civil inquest is to be tried by a jury of six and every criminal inquest to be tried by a jury of 12 except where the court makes an order under section 14A.

*Clause 6* inserts section 14A which provides that a court may empanel up to three additional jurors in any criminal inquest which it expects will be of three months duration or more.

*Clause 7* removes the qualification “criminal” from inquests for which jury panels are forwarded to the Chief Commissioner of Police and repeals provisions relating to the sale of civil jury panels.

*Clause 8* repeals section 22 which provides for the names and addresses of jurors to be given to persons charged with treason.

*Clause 9* makes provision for the names and occupations of jurors to be furnished at the commencement of a hearing, except where two or more jurors share the same name and occupation, in which case their addresses will also be furnished.

*Clause 10* provides for the name, occupation and where supplied, the address of each juror to be called upon empanelling a civil jury.

*Clause 11* provides that majority verdicts in the County Court shall be taken in the same manner as they are taken in the Supreme Court.

*Clause 12* repeals sub-section 48 (3) and makes consequential amendments to sub-sections 48 (2) and (3).

*Clause 13* inserts section 48A which provides for a ballot to be taken before the jury retires where more than 12 jurors remain at the conclusion of a trial.

*Clause 14* makes miscellaneous amendments to the Principal Act.

By Authority Jean Gordon Government Printer Melbourne

