

# MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (REGISTER OF INTERESTS) BILL.

## NOTES ON CLAUSES.

*Clause 1. Sub-clause (1)* is a provision in the usual form as to short title.

*Sub-clause (2)* provides for the Act to operate from the date of receiving Royal Assent.

*Sub-clause (3)* is a provision in the usual form listing the various Parts into which the Bill is divided and their titles.

*Clause 2.* is a general interpretation provision which defines "Family", "Member" and "trade or professional organization" for the purposes of the Bill.

*Clause 3. Sub-clause (1)* specifies the code of conduct by which Members of Parliament shall be bound.

*Sub-clause (2)* provides that, in applying and interpreting the code of conduct, regard shall be had to any recommendation of the appropriate Joint Select Committee of the Victorian Parliament.

*Clause 4.* is an interpretation provision which defines "Financial benefit", "Income source", "Register" and "Return period" for the purposes of Part II of the Bill.

*Clause 5. Sub-clause (1)* requires each person who is a Member of either House of Parliament on or before 1st February, 1979 to submit a primary return by 28th February, 1979.

*Sub-clause (2)* requires newly elected Members of Parliament to submit a primary return within 30 days of taking and subscribing the oath or affirmation as a Member.

*Sub-clause (3)* requires Members after they have lodged a primary return to lodge an ordinary return at the end of each financial year.

*Clause 6. Sub-clause (1)* specifies the interests which a Member must declare in his primary return.

*Sub-clause (2)* specifies the interests which a Member must declare in his annual ordinary return.

Paragraphs (c), (d), (e), (f) and (i) specify interests which must be declared in both the primary and ordinary returns submitted by a Member pursuant to Clause 5.

*Sub-clause (3)* specifically exempts a Member from having to disclose contributions to the Member's travel made by companies owned or controlled by the Member or the Member's relatives and information which has already been disclosed in a previous return submitted pursuant to Clause 5.

*Sub-clause (4)* requires a Member to notify any changes or variations in the information he is required to disclose pursuant to the Bill.

*Sub-clause (5)* provides that no Member need disclose the amount of any financial benefit in respect of himself or his spouse which is entered on the register pursuant to the Bill.

*Clause 7. Sub-clause (1)* provides for the Clerk of the Parliaments to maintain and update the Register of Members' Interests.

*Sub-clause (2)* forbids access to the register by any person other than a person to whom sub-clause (3) refers.

*Sub-clause (3)* provides that any person who gains access to the register on behalf of the Clerk of the Parliaments and in pursuance of his duties on the Clerk's behalf shall not at any time divulge, communicate or make use of information so gained.

*Sub-clause (4)* provides for the preparation of a summary of information contained in returns to be prepared by the Clerk of the Parliaments and to be laid before each House of Parliament.

*Clause 8.* This clause prohibits any malicious use of information published in Parliamentary Papers, but does not inhibit any fair publication that is in the public interest.

*Clause 9.* provides that the seat of the Member shall become vacant in the event of his failure to promptly pay any fine imposed under section 8.

*Clause 10.* is a provision in the usual form empowering the Governor in Council to make regulations.

