

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

MAINTENANCE ORDINANCE 1968

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

No. 20 of 1968

The purpose of this Ordinance is to introduce an up-to-date, comprehensive law relating to the maintenance of spouses and children. It is based on the model Maintenance Bill prepared under the direction of the Standing Committee of Commonwealth and State Attorneys-General.

2. The Court of Petty Sessions is given power to make maintenance orders –
- (a) against a husband for the maintenance of his wife (section 13);
  - (b) against a wife for the maintenance of her husband, where he is ill or otherwise unable to support himself adequately (section 15);
  - (c) against a father or mother for the maintenance of their child until he reaches 16, or 21 if he is doing a course of training (sections 14, 27);

and also orders –

- (d) against a father for the preliminary expenses of the birth of his illegitimate child (section 16);
- (e) against either parent for the funeral expenses of an infant child of the marriage (section 18);
- (f) against a father for the funeral expenses of his infant child, or the mother of such a child during, and as a consequence of, her pregnancy (sections 18 and 19);
- (g) against a spouse or parent for the cost of medical, surgical, psychiatric, dental, hospital or nursing care or treatment of a wife, husband or child (section 20).