

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DISCRIMINATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1995
GOVERNMENT AMENDMENTS

SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Amendments to be moved on behalf of the Government

Circulated by authority of
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Attorney-General

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

DISCRIMINATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1995 **GOVERNMENT AMENDMENTS**

OUTLINE

The Discrimination (Amendment) Bill 1995 seeks to clarify the fact that the *Discrimination Act 1991* is to cover members of the Legislative Assembly, and thus give protection under the Act to staff employed under the *Legislative Assembly (Members' Staff) Act 1989*. These amendments add to the proposed changes to extend coverage of the amendment to office-holders as defined in the *Legislative Assembly (Members' Staff) Act 1989*

Financial Implications

It is anticipated that any additional demand on the courts involved will be absorbed within the current budget allocation at this stage. It is, however, considered important that the situation is monitored in the future, and the operation of the legislation will be reviewed in 12 months' time. This should include a review of the effects of the legislation on the resources of the Courts, the Legal Aid Office and other agencies.

AMENDMENTS

Clause 4 is amended by providing that members of the Legislative Assembly are to be deemed employers under the *Discrimination Act 1991* whether they are acting in their capacity as ordinary members or office-holders as defined by the *Legislative Assembly (Members' Staff) Act 1989*. This takes into account that Act's provisions for members to employ staff both in their capacity as members and as office-holders (Minister, Speaker or member to whom special authority to employ has been given). Consequential tidying-up of references is included.