

Hon. Mr Adams-Schneider

DOMESTIC PURPOSES BENEFIT

ANALYSIS

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A BILL INTITULED

An Act to provide for the payment of social security benefits to solo parents, persons required to care for sick or infirm persons, or women living alone who are unable to maintain themselves

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BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. **Short Title**—This Act may be cited as the Domestic Purposes Benefit Act 1973.

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2. **Interpretation**—In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

“Beneficiary” means a person who has been granted a domestic purposes benefit:

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“Benefit” means a domestic purposes benefit:

“Child” means a child under the age of 16 years; and includes a stepchild:

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“Commission” means the Social Security Commission established by the Social Security Act 1964:

“Solo parent” means any person, either male or female, who in the opinion of the Social Security Commission is living alone and has the care and control of a dependent child or children. 5

3. Domestic purposes benefits—Subject to the provisions of this Act—

- (a) Every solo parent; and
 - (b) Every person who satisfies the Commission that he or she is caring for a sick or infirm person; provided that:
 - (i) The need for full time care has been established to the satisfaction of the Commission;
 - (ii) He or she is thereby prevented from obtaining other employment; and 15
 - (iii) The person who is being cared for, or the spouse of that person, is not financially able to pay adequately for that service; and
 - (c) Every widow without dependent children who on losing the support of a husband satisfies the following conditions, namely: 20
 - (i) That she is not less than 45 years of age; and
 - (ii) That the duration of her marriage (or, if she was married more than once, the aggregate of the periods of the duration of her marriages) was not less than 10 years; or 25
 - (iii) That she is not less than 50 years of age; and
 - (iv) That the duration of her marriage (or, if she was married more than once, the aggregate of the periods of the duration of her marriages) were not less than 5 years; and 30
 - (d) Every woman alone without dependent children who when her last child ceased to be dependent had had the care of a child for not less than 15 years,— 35
- shall be entitled to receive a domestic purposes benefit.

4. Residence in New Zealand—No person shall be entitled to receive a domestic purposes benefit unless—

- (a) Both the beneficiary and his or her spouse, if any, have been ordinarily resident in New Zealand for not less than 3 years prior to the date of application for a domestic purposes benefit; or 40

(b) Either the beneficiary or his or her spouse, if any, had resided continuously in New Zealand for not less than 5 years prior to the date of application for a domestic purposes benefit.

5 **5. Rates of benefit**—The rates of domestic purposes benefits shall in each case be fixed by the Commission, which shall also fix any income exemption applicable to that case.

10 **6. Commencement of benefit**—Every domestic purposes benefit shall commence on such date and shall be continued for such period as the Social Security Commission determines.

15 **7. Provisions of Social Security Act to apply**—(1) Any benefit payable under this Act shall be subject to the provisions of Part I and Part III of the Social Security Act 1964.

20 (2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the provisions of the Social Security Act 1964 shall apply to every domestic purposes benefit as though that benefit were payable under Part I of the Social Security Act 1964.

20 **8. Other benefits not affected**—No benefit at present payable under the Social Security Act 1964 shall cease to become payable by reason of the passing of this Act.