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Parliamentary Summary

Bills Introduced

Government Bill

(Minister/Member in Charge Shown in Parenthesis)
16 April 1991

Referred to Select Committee

Education Amendment Bill (Hon. Dr Lockwood Smith)

Education and Science

Summary of Bills Introduced

Education Amendment

This Bill amends the Education Act 1989.

Part I of the Bill replaces sections 11 and 12 of the principal Act, which relate respectively to limitations on enrolment at primary schools and enrolment schemes for secondary schools, with 7 new sections. Under the new provisions, enrolment schemes may still only be put in place to avoid overcrowding, but all schemes will be put in place by Boards of State schools instead of the Secretary of Education.

Part II of the Bill makes the following further amendments to the principal Act:

- (i) Amends section 82 of the Act to empower the Secretary of Education, if satisfied that a Board's financial management system is not working well enough, to require the Board to employ and pay a chartered accountant to oversee its financial management;
- (ii) Amends section 150 of the Act so that in future contributing schools will be contributing schools in general, rather than contributing schools of particular intermediate schools and departments. Therefore, students who leave a contributing school may (subject to enrolment schemes) enrol at any intermediate school or department, or at some full primary school, as their parents wish; and
- (iii) Inserts a new section 157A, which gives the Minister of Education an express general power to appoint a person to convene community education forums in relation to actions the Minister proposes to consider taking under Part XII of the principal Act. It also repeals section 157 (1) of the principal Act, which *requires* the Minister, before taking certain actions relating to schools, to appoint a community education convenor to organise community education forums. In particular it enables the recapitulation of contributing schools without the community forum process if the Minister thinks fit.