



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**LEGISLATION PROPOSED FOR INTRODUCTION
IN THE 2015 SPRING SITTINGS**

Bills marked * are proposed for introduction and passage in the Spring sittings

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S

Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment Bill *

- address critical operational impediments to the use of control orders, preventative detention orders and sensitive information
- address a number of remaining recommendations from the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) response to the COAG Review of Counter-Terrorism Legislation

Reason for legislation: to update and improve the operation of existing legislation

Courts Administration (Federal Court, Family Court and Federal Circuit Court) Bill *

- support structural, administrative and other reforms to the Federal Court of Australia, the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Circuit Court of Australia

Reason for legislation: proposed update to the operation of existing legislation to implement structural and other reforms to the Federal Court, Family Court and Federal Circuit Court

Telecommunications and Other Legislation Amendment Bill *

- establish a regulatory framework for the telecommunications sector to better safeguard critical systems and data from unauthorised access and interference

Reason for legislation: to implement a Government commitment in response to Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security recommendations

Link to announcement: [Joint Media release - 26 June 2015](#); [Joint Media release - 3 March 2015](#)

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COMMUNICATIONS

Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Access Arrangements and National Broadband Network Measures) Bill

- amend Part XIC of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* and the *National Broadband Network Companies Act 2011* to implement proposals from the Vertigan Review

Reason for legislation: to update and improve the operation of existing legislation

Link to announcement: [Media release - 11 December 2014](#)

Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Competition and Consumer) Bill

- establish infrastructure provider of last resort obligations on providers of superfast carriage services on an area by area basis
- establish requirements for owners of high-speed broadband networks to operate on a structurally separated basis, with powers for the ACCC to authorise functional separation and to make other associated amendments
- provide for industry contributions to the cost of non-commercial services
- improve the deployment of telecommunications

Reason for legislation: to update and improve the operation of existing legislation

Link to announcement: [Media release - 11 December 2014](#)

DEFENCE

Defence Legislation Amendment (First Principles) Bill *

- in accordance with the First Principles Review of Defence recommendations, provide clear authorities and accountabilities to formally recognise the authority of the Chief of the Defence Force and the Vice Chief of the Defence Force

Reason for legislation: to provide clear authorities and accountabilities for the good governance of Defence

Link to announcement: [First Principles Review Creating One Defence](#)

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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment (Streamlining Regulation) Bill * **Education Services for Overseas Students (Registration Charges) Amendment** **(Streamlining Regulation) Bill ***

- remove burdensome regulatory requirements in the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000* and better align registration arrangements for providers across the education services for overseas students and relevant domestic frameworks

Reason for legislation: to update and improve the operation of existing legislation and implement measures consistent with the Government's commitment to deregulation

Link to announcements: [ESOS Bill Exposure Draft](#), [Media release - 7 July 2015](#)

Higher Education Support Amendment (Overseas Debt Recovery) Bill * **Higher Education Loan Programme Overseas Repayment Obligation Bill ***

- recover HELP debts from overseas-based debtors through an income contingent repayment scheme

Reason for legislation: to implement 2015-16 Budget measure

Link to announcement: [Media release - 2 May 2015](#)

Higher Education Support (VET FEE-HELP Reform) Bill *

- amend the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* to strengthen the VET FEE-HELP loan scheme. The amendments will strengthen the administration of the programme, enhance requirements for VET providers and implement complementary actions to provide additional protections and improve the quality outcome for students

Reason for legislation: to implement measures consistent with the Government commitment to improving the quality and effectiveness of the VET FEE-HELP programme

Link to announcement: [Media release - 12 March 2015](#), VET FEE-HELP [Fact Sheet Updated 3 July 2015](#)

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EMPLOYMENT

Social Security Amendment (Further Strengthening Job Seeker Compliance) Bill *

- further strengthen compliance arrangements for job seekers who fail to meet their mutual obligation requirements, including the requirement to actively look for work, to participate in activities like Work for the Dole and to attend appointments

Reason for legislation: to implement a 2015-16 Budget measure

Link to announcement: [Budget 2015 - Part 2: Expense Measures](#)

Social Security (Rapid Activation of Young Job Seekers under 25) Amendment Bill *

- require all new job seekers up to the age of 25, applying for Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance (other) and Special Benefit, who have been assessed as eligible for Stream A in *jobactive*, to complete pre-benefit activities within four weeks of lodging their claim for income support before they can begin to receive payments

Reason for legislation: to implement a 2015-16 Budget measure

Link to announcement: [Jobs and Small Business](#)

Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation Bill

Seafarers Legislation Amendment Bill

- create new Acts to modernise and improve the Seafarers Safety and Rehabilitation and Compensation (Seacare) scheme

Reason for legislation: to modernise and improve the Seacare scheme

Link to announcement: [Hansard link](#)

ENVIRONMENT

Water Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2015

- amend the *Water Act 2007* in accordance with the Government Response to the Report of the Independent Review of the Water Act, and make other minor amendments to the Water Act

Reason for legislation: to realise regulatory efficiencies for the water industry and support the effective and timely implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan

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HEALTH

Australian Immunisation Registers Bill *

- create a new consolidated legislative framework for the establishment and ongoing management of all Australian immunisation registers that record details about vaccinations administered to all Australians

Reason for legislation: to implement Budget measures

Link to announcement: [Media release - 19 April 2015](#) [Media release - 19 April 2015](#) [Media release - 12 April 2015](#) [Media release - 9 May 2015](#)

Health Legislation (eHealth) Amendment Bill *

- implement recommendations of the reviews of the *Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record* and the *Healthcare Identifiers Act and Service*

Reason for legislation: to implement a Budget decision and to improve the operation of existing legislation

Link to announcement: [Media release - 10 May 2015](#)

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION

Migration Legislation Amendment (Code of Procedure Harmonisation) Bill

- amend Parts 5 and 7 of the *Migration Act 1958* to harmonise provisions that govern merits review of decisions (other than decisions based on character considerations), consistent with and to complement amendments made by the *Tribunals Amalgamation Act 2015* ('the Tribunals Act'). The Tribunals Act amalgamates the Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal (MRT-RRT) into a single division of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal

Reason for legislation: to align processes of the MRT-RRT consistent with amendments made by the Tribunals Act

PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Omnibus Repeal Day (Spring 2015) Bill

- amend a range of Acts to remove spent and redundant provisions and repeal a number of spent and redundant Acts
- remove red tape and reduce regulatory burden

Reason for legislation: to implement measures consistent with the Government's commitment to remove unnecessary and inefficient regulation by updating and improving the operation of existing legislation

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TREASURY

Banking Laws Amendment (Unclaimed Moneys) Bill *

- improve the unclaimed moneys provisions in a number of ways by: extending the required period of inactivity before accounts are transferred to the Government to seven years; exempting children's accounts and foreign currency accounts; removing a legislative inconsistency that can result in active accounts being transferred to ASIC; and introducing additional privacy protections (such as ceasing publication of the unclaimed moneys gazette) to help prevent Australians with unclaimed accounts from being taken advantage of

Reason for legislation: to implement a 2015-16 Budget decision

Link to announcement: [Media release - 18 March 2015](#)

Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Amendment Bill *

Foreign Ownership Register Bill

Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Fees (Imposition) Bill

- implement the Government's decision to increase screening and registration of foreign investment in agriculture; transfer residential real estate functions to the Australian Taxation Office; introduce fees on all foreign investment applications; introduce civil penalty and infringement notice regimes for breaches of foreign investment rules and make various changes to modernise and simplify the *Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975*

Reason for legislation: to implement an election commitment

Link to announcement: [Media release - 2 May 2015](#)

Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Governance) Bill *

- implement the Government's election commitment to improve governance in superannuation

Reason for legislation: to implement an election commitment

Link to announcement: [Media release - 26 June 2015](#)

Tax and Superannuation Laws Amendment (2015 Spring No. 1) Bill *

- better target the Zone Tax Offset to exclude ‘fly-in fly-out’ and ‘drive-in drive-out’ employees

Reason for legislation: to implement a 2015-16 Budget decision

Link to announcement: [2015-16 Budget – Budget Paper No. 2](#)

- limit fringe benefit tax concessions for entertainment benefits

Reason for legislation: to implement a 2015-16 Budget decision

Link to announcement: [2015-16 Budget – Budget Paper No. 2](#)

- strengthen the CGT scrip for scrip rollover integrity provisions

Reason for legislation: to implement a 2015-16 Budget decision

Link to announcement: [Media release - 14 December 2013](#)

- increase the threshold at which superannuation funds transfer lost member superannuation accounts to the Australian Taxation Office from \$2,000 to \$6,000 in two stages

Reason for legislation: to implement a 2013-14 MYEFO decision

Link to announcement: [Media release - 6 November 2013](#)

- introduce a non-final withholding tax to the disposal by foreign residents of certain direct and indirect interests in Australian real property

Reason for legislation: to implement a 2015-16 Budget decision

Link to announcement: [Media release - 6 November 2013](#)

Tax Laws Amendment (Combatting Multinational Tax Avoidance) Bill *

- introduce a new targeted anti-avoidance rule to stop multinationals artificially avoiding a taxable presence in Australia
- help the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) detect tax avoidance by introducing better transfer pricing documentation (the first concrete deliverable from the OECD’s base erosion and profit shifting action plan)
- deter aggressive tax planning by increasing penalties and public transparency. These requirements will only apply to multinational entities with global revenue greater than \$1 billion

Reason for legislation: to implement a 2015-16 Budget decision

Link to announcement: [Media release - 11 May 2015](#)

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Rehabilitation and Compensation (Australian Defence Force) Bill

- create a separate version of the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* to apply only to Australian Defence Force members

Reason for legislation: to simplify and improve the operation of existing legislation

Link to announcement: [Media release - 25 March 2015](#)