

# **Social Services (Spent and Redundant Instruments) Repeal Regulation 2014**

## **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

### **Select Legislative Instrument No. 24, 2014**

Issued under the Authority of the Attorney-General  
in compliance with section 26 of the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This regulation was made under section 48E of the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003* (the LIA) and, as a regulation, is a legislative instrument under paragraph 6(a) of that Act.

## **OUTLINE**

In 2012, changes were made to the LIA to enable thousands of unnecessary legislative instruments to be repealed in an efficient, streamlined process, without having to repeal them one by one.

The changes were recommended by the *2008 Review of the LIA*, and also responded to the finding of the 2010 Department of Finance and Deregulation *Review of pre-2008 Commonwealth subordinate legislation and other regulation* that a large number of legislative instruments are probably spent or redundant.

This regulation repeals a total of 287 legislative instruments administered by the Department of Social Services. Most of the instruments it repeals are spent—that is, they are solely commencing, amending or repealing and have taken effect in full. The rest are no longer required for other reasons.

Repeal of the instruments will reduce red tape, deliver clearer laws and make accessing the law simpler for both businesses and individuals. In all cases, the repeal of the instruments will not substantially alter existing arrangements.

This regulation deals with instruments administered solely by the Department of Social Services. Spent or redundant instruments administered by other agencies and departments, or by 2 or more departments, are being repealed separately.

## **PROCESS BEFORE REGULATION WAS MADE**

### **Regulatory impact analysis**

Before this regulation was made, its expected impact was assessed using the Preliminary Assessment tool approved by the Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR). That assessment indicated that it would have no or low impact on business, individuals and the economy. This assessment has been confirmed by the OBPR (OBPR reference 15134).

## **Statement of compatibility with human rights obligations**

Before this regulation was made, its impact on human rights was assessed using tools and guidance published by the Attorney-General's Department. It is fully compatible with human rights as defined in section 3 of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*.

## **Consultation before making**

Before this regulation was made, the Attorney-General considered the general obligation to consult imposed by section 17 of the LIA, and the specific circumstances where consultation may be unnecessary or inappropriate set out in section 18. The Attorney-General consulted the Minister for Social Services, who advised that the regulation does not significantly alter existing arrangements and that further consultation is, therefore, unnecessary.

## **Statutory preconditions and Parliamentary undertakings relevant to this regulation**

Before an instrument can be repealed by regulation under subsection 48E(2) of the LIA, the Attorney-General must be satisfied that the instrument to be repealed is spent or no longer required. It is the Attorney-General's opinion that, in the case of this regulation:

1. all of the instruments repealed by Schedules 1 and 2 are spent, and
2. all of the instruments repealed by Schedules 3 and 4 are no longer required.

There are no other statutory preconditions or Parliamentary undertakings relevant to the making of this regulation.

## **PROCESSES FOR REVIEW OF THIS REGULATION**

This regulation is subject to tabling and disallowance under Part 5 of the LIA, and will cease as if repealed on the day after the last of its provisions commence.

The instruments repealed by this regulation are also subject to Part 5 of the LIA. All have been tabled, and all are either beyond their disallowance period or exempt from disallowance.

## **OTHER ISSUES**

### **Matter incorporated by reference**

This regulation does not apply, adopt or incorporate other matter by reference.

### **More information**

A provision by provision explanation of the regulation is provided in [Attachment A](#).

Copies of each instrument to be repealed, and information about its history, are available on the whole-of-government ComLaw website (<http://www.comlaw.gov.au>).

Further information about an instrument may be requested from the administering department or its relevant agencies.

**Section 1 Name of regulation**

This section provides for the regulation to be named as the *Social Services (Spent and Redundant Instruments) Repeal Regulation 2014*. The regulation may be cited by that name.

**Section 2 Commencement**

This section provides for the regulation to commence on the day after it is registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments. This is the day that would apply under subsection 12(1) of the LIA, if no commencement provision were made.

**Section 3 Authority**

This section identifies the Act that authorises the making of the regulation.

**Section 4 Guide to this regulation**

This section explains how the regulation is structured. To assist the reader, the instruments repealed by this regulation are listed in 4 Schedules:

Schedule 1 deals with solely amending and repealing instruments.

Schedule 2 deals with commencement instruments.

Schedule 3 deals with amending and repealing instruments that contain application, saving or transitional provisions.

Schedule 4 deals with other instruments that are spent or no longer required.

This section also notes that the regulation contains saving provisions that apply to the repeals, in addition to the provision made by section 7 of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*. That section applies to this regulation because of section 13 of the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003*.

**Section 5 Repeal of amending and repealing instruments**

Section 5 and Schedule 1 repeal amending and repealing legislative instruments that are spent, and that would have been repealed automatically under section 48A of the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003* if they had been made after the commencement of that section. They do not include instruments with an application, saving or transitional provision: see section 7 and Schedule 3.

The repeal of an instrument mentioned in Schedule 1 does not affect any amendment or repeal made by the instrument: see subsection 5(2).

**Section 6 Repeal of commencement instruments**

Section 6 and Schedule 2 repeal commencement instruments that are spent, and that would have been repealed automatically under section 48B of the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003* if they had been made after the commencement of that section.

The repeal of an instrument mentioned in Schedule 2 does not affect any commencement the instrument provides for: see subsection 6(2).

## **Section 7 Repeal of amending and repealing instruments containing other provisions**

Section 7 and Schedule 3 repeal amending and repealing legislative instruments that also contain application, saving or transitional provisions. The amendments and repeals have happened, and the application, saving or transitional provisions are no longer required. The instruments do not contain any other substantive provisions.

To assist the reader, the location of each application, saving or transitional provision in an instrument is identified in brackets after its name, with “s” used to indicate the provision (e.g. “s. 4” may refer to section 4, regulation 4, clause 4 or the fourth provision of some other type as appropriate).

The repeal of an instrument mentioned in Schedule 3 does not affect any amendment or repeal made by the instrument, or affect the continuing operation of any application, saving or transitional provision: see subsection 7(2).

## **Section 8 Repeal of other redundant instruments**

Section 8 and Schedule 4 repeal instruments that are no longer required for some other reason. Schedule 4 is divided into Parts along thematic lines as explained below.

The repeal of an instrument mentioned in Schedule 4 does not affect any amendment or repeal made by the instrument, or affect the continuing operation of any application, saving or transitional provision: see subsection 8(2).

## **Section 9 Expiry of regulation**

Section 9 provides for the regulation to cease on the day after it commences, consistent with the aim of delivering clearer laws and reducing red tape. If this provision was not made:

- the many provisions that are solely repealing or commencing would cease on the day after they commence under sections 48C and 48D of the LIA; and
- the rest of the instrument would remain in force until repealed by sunseting or some other means, even though it serves no ongoing purpose.

## **Schedule 1—Repeal of amending and repealing instruments**

This Schedule repeals amending and repealing legislative instruments that are spent, and that would have been repealed automatically under section 48A of the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003* if they had been made after the commencement of that section. This Schedule does not include instruments with an application, saving or transitional provision: see Schedule 3.

The repeal of an instrument by this Schedule does not affect any amendment or repeal made by the instrument: see subsection 5(2).

## **Schedule 2—Repeal of commencement instruments**

This Schedule repeals commencement instruments that are spent, and that would have been repealed automatically under section 48B of the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003* if they had been made after the commencement of that section.

The repeal of an instrument by this Schedule does not affect any commencement the instrument provides for: see subsection 6(2).

### **Schedule 3—Repeal of amending and repealing instruments containing other provisions**

This Schedule repeals amending and repealing legislative instruments that also contain application, saving or transitional provisions. The amendments and repeals have happened, and the application, saving or transitional provisions are no longer required. The instruments do not contain any other substantive provisions.

To assist the reader, the location of each application, saving or transitional provision in an instrument is identified in brackets after its name, with “s” used to indicate the provision (e.g. “s. 4” may refer to section 4, regulation 4, clause 4 or the fourth provision of some other type as appropriate).

The repeal of an instrument by this Schedule does not affect any amendment or repeal made by the instrument: see paragraph 7(2)(a). Also, to ensure that the repeal of the application, saving or transitional provisions does not have any unforeseen effect, and to remove any doubt that may otherwise exist, any continuing operation they may have is preserved: see paragraph 7(2)(b).

### **Schedule 4—Repeal of other redundant instruments**

This Schedule repeals legislative instruments that are spent or no longer required, and that are not covered by the previous Schedules.

The repeal of an instrument by this Schedule does not affect any amendment or repeal made by the instrument: see paragraph 8(2)(a). Also, to ensure that the repeal of any application, saving or transitional provision does not have any unforeseen effect, and to remove any doubt that may otherwise exist, any continuing operation it may have is preserved: see paragraph 8(2)(b).

#### **Part 1 of Schedule 4—Instruments past their date of effect**

This Part repeals 11 instruments. These instruments are all expressed as applying or having effect until a date which has now passed, and are no longer required. The repeal of the instruments does not alter existing arrangements.

#### **Part 2 of Schedule 4—Exempt lump sum instruments**

This Part repeals 22 determinations made under paragraph 8(11)(d) of the *Social Security Act 1991* (the Act). The determinations exempt certain lump sum payments from the definition of “ordinary income” for means-testing under the Act. In all cases the payment schemes or application periods have closed and the instruments are no longer required. Their repeal does not alter existing arrangements.

#### **Part 3 of Schedule 4—Other instruments no longer required**

Item 1 repeals the *Aged Care (Consequential Provisions) Act 1997* - Determination of additional amount payable in respect of residential care services under subsection 60(1). The instrument specifies circumstances in which an additional amount (the Interim Accommodation Supplement) is payable to an approved provider under section 43-1 of the *Aged Care Act 1997*. The Interim Accommodation Supplement was paid from 1 July 2007 to 19 March 2008 (inclusive) and as this period has now passed, the determination is no longer required. Its repeal does not alter existing arrangements.

Item 2 repeals the *Household Stimulus Package (Household Stimulus Payment Administrative Scheme) (DEEWR) Determination 2009 (No. 1)*. The determination was made by the then Minister for Education and Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations under subitem 1(1) of Schedule 4 to the *Household Stimulus Package Act (No. 2) 2009* (the HSP Act). The determination provided one-off payments, known as household stimulus payments, to certain students and parents of students who did not receive a training and learning bonus or back to school bonus under the HSP Act. The payment scheme and qualifying period has closed and the instrument is no longer required. Its repeal does not alter existing arrangements.