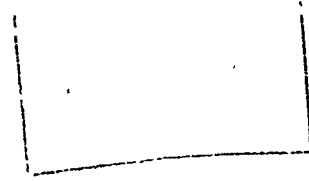


1996



**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

ELECTORAL (APPLICATION) BILL 1996

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

**Circulated by authority of
Gary Humphries, Attorney General**

ELECTORAL (APPLICATION) BILL 1996

OUTLINE

This Bill is intended to extend the deadline for the submission of election financial disclosure annual returns by political parties and Independent MLAs for the 1995/96 financial year.

The Bill extends the deadline for submission of annual returns from 17 November 1996 to 17 December 1996. This extension will give the Legislative Assembly time to consider the proposed changes to the ACT's election funding and financial disclosure laws set out in the Electoral (Amendment) Bill (No 3) 1996 before the annual returns fall due.

If the Assembly decides to adopt the Electoral (Amendment) Bill (No 3) 1996 in the November sittings, this extension of time will enable political parties and Independent MLAs to submit annual returns under the simplified disclosure laws, rather than the more onerous requirements that currently apply.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Adoption of this Bill will have no financial implications.

DETAILED EXPLANATION

Formal clauses

Clauses 1 and 2 are formal requirements. They refer to the short title of the Bill and the commencement date. The Bill is to commence on the day on which it is notified in the Gazette.

Annual returns

Clause 3 replaces subsection 230(1) of the *Electoral Act 1992* to provide that for the financial year 1995/96, political parties and Independent MLAs have until 17 December 1996 to lodge annual returns under section 230. Currently under subsection 230(1) annual returns are to be lodged by 17 November 1996.