

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Juries (Amendment) Ordinance 1984 No. 8

The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the Juries Ordinance 1967 ('the Principal Ordinance') to enable a judge of the A.C.T. Supreme Court to excuse, for a specified period, a person from further jury service where that person has served on a jury for a lengthy trial.

The New South Wales Jury Act 1977 contains provisions similar to those proposed.

Section 1 provides that the Ordinance may be cited as the Juries (Amendment) Ordinance 1984.

Section 2 defines the Principal Ordinance as the Juries Ordinance 1967.

Section 3 inserts new section 18A in Part III of the Principal Ordinance.

New sub-section 18A(1) enables a judge of the A.C.T. Supreme Court, at the conclusion of a criminal trial, to order that the jurors be excused from jury service for a specified period, if the judge considers the length of the trial warrants his doing so.

New sub-section 18A(2) requires the Sheriff to make a note on the jury list by the name of each person so excused and to notify each person in writing that an order excusing him from jury service for a specified period has been made.

New sub-section 18A(3) provides that the name of a person excused from jury service shall be deemed not to be included in the jury list and that the person is not liable to be summoned or appointed to attend as a juror while excused.

Section 4 inserts new sub-section (9) in section 19 of the Principal Ordinance.

New sub-section 19(9) has the effect of providing that the names of persons "temporarily" excused from jury service are not to be struck off the jury list.

Authorised by the Attorney-General

Ord. No. 82/83