

# Community Welfare Act 1987 No 52

[1987-52]



New South Wales

## Status Information

### Currency of version

Current version for 1 July 2022 to date (accessed 6 May 2024 at 11:47)

Legislation on this site is usually updated within 3 working days after a change to the legislation.

### Provisions in force

The provisions displayed in this version of the legislation have all commenced.

### Notes—

- **Editorial note**

The Parliamentary Counsel's Office is progressively updating certain formatting styles in versions of NSW in force legislation published from 29 July 2019. For example, colons are being replaced by em-rules (em-dashes). Text of the legislation is not affected.

This version has been updated.

### Responsible Minister

- Minister for Families and Communities
- Minister for Emergency Services

For full details of Ministerial responsibilities, see the [Administrative Arrangements \(Minns Ministry—Administration of Acts\) Order 2023](#).

### Authorisation

This version of the legislation is compiled and maintained in a database of legislation by the Parliamentary Counsel's Office and published on the NSW legislation website, and is certified as the form of that legislation that is correct under section 45C of the [Interpretation Act 1987](#).

File last modified 1 July 2022

# Community Welfare Act 1987 No 52



## Contents

**Long title** ..... 5

**Part 1 Preliminary** ..... 5

1 Name of Act ..... 5

2 Commencement ..... 5

3 Definitions ..... 5

3A Facilities ..... 6

3B (Repealed) ..... 7

4 Objects of community welfare legislation ..... 7

5 Delegation ..... 9

**Part 2 Community welfare and social development** ..... 9

**Division 1 Functions of Minister and Secretary** ..... 9

6 Power of Minister in relation to community welfare and social development ..... 9

7 Assistance funds for community welfare and social development programs ..... 10

8 Honorary welfare officers ..... 11

9 Preparation of policies and programmes by the Secretary ..... 11

10 Assessment of community welfare and social development programmes by the Secretary ..... 11

11 Arrangements to use services ..... 12

12 Community Welfare Fund ..... 13

13 Application of Community Welfare Fund ..... 13

13A Acquisition and disposal of land ..... 13

13B, 13C (Repealed) ..... 14

<b>Division 2 Committees</b>	14
14-16 (Repealed)	14
17 Committees	14
18 Assistance to committees	14
19 Reports	15
<b>Part 3 (Repealed)</b>	15
<b>Part 4 General welfare assistance</b>	15
35 Objects of Part	15
36 General assistance	15
<b>Part 5 Disaster welfare assistance</b>	16
37 Definitions	16
37A Declaration of disasters	16
38 Co-ordination of welfare services for victims of declared disasters	16
38A Financial and other assistance to disaster victims	16
39 Community Disaster Relief Fund	17
40 Application of Community Disaster Relief Fund	17
41 Transfer of private disaster relief funds to Community Disaster Relief Fund	18
42 Investment of Community Disaster Relief Fund	18
<b>Part 6 (Repealed)</b>	18
<b>Part 7 Miscellaneous</b>	18
75 Limitation of personal liability	18
76 Disclosure of information	19
76A Obstruction etc of officers	19
76B Person falsely representing as an employee	19
76C False or misleading statements	19
77 Proceedings for offences	20
78 Regulations	20
79 Savings, transitional and other provisions	20
<b>Schedule 1 (Repealed)</b>	20

**Schedule 2 Procedure of committees .....20**

**Schedule 3 (Repealed) ..... 22**

**Schedule 4 Savings, transitional and other provisions .....22**

# Community Welfare Act 1987 No 52



New South Wales

An Act with respect to community welfare.

## Part 1 Preliminary

### 1 Name of Act

This Act may be cited as the *Community Welfare Act 1987*.

### 2 Commencement

- (1) Except as provided by subsections (2) and (3), this Act shall commence on the date of assent to this Act.
- (2) Sections 14, 15 and 16 shall commence on such day or days as may be appointed by the Governor and notified by proclamation published in the Gazette.
- (3) Part 6 shall commence on such day as may be appointed by the Governor and notified by proclamation published in the Gazette.

### 3 Definitions

- (1) In this Act, except in so far as the context or subject-matter otherwise indicates or requires—

**approved non-Government organisation** means a corporation, society, association or other body of persons, not being the Crown, approved by the Minister for the purposes of this Act.

**child** means a person who is under the age of 18 years.

**committee** means an advisory committee referred to in section 17.

**Community Disaster Relief Fund** means the fund referred to in section 39.

**Community Welfare Fund** means the fund referred to in section 12.

**community welfare legislation** means—

- (a) this Act and any other Act administered by the Minister within the Department,

and

(b) any instrument under this Act or any other such Act,

**Department** means the Department of Family and Community Services.

**disabled person** means an intellectually disabled person or a physically disabled person.

**employee** means a person employed in the Department.

**facility**, in relation to any provision of the community welfare legislation, means any premises the subject of an order in force under section 3A (1) in respect of that provision.

**intellectual impairment**, in relation to a person, means any defect or disturbance in the normal structure and functioning of the person's brain, whether arising from a condition subsisting at birth or from illness or injury.

**intellectually disabled person** includes a person who, as a result of disabilities arising from intellectual impairment, is substantially limited in one or more major life activities.

**physical impairment**, in relation to a person, means any defect or disturbance in the normal structure and functioning of the person's body, whether arising from a condition subsisting at birth or from illness or injury, but does not include intellectual impairment.

**physically disabled person** includes a person who, as a result of having a physical impairment to his or her body, and having regard to any community attitudes relating to persons having the same physical impairment as that person and to the physical environment, is limited in his or her opportunities to enjoy a full and active life.

**regulation** means a regulation made under this Act.

**Secretary** means the Secretary of the Department.

(2) In this Act—

(a) a reference to a function includes a reference to a power, authority and duty, and

(b) a reference to the exercise of a function includes, where the function is a duty, a reference to the performance of the duty.

### **3A Facilities**

(1) The Minister may, by order published in the Gazette, declare any premises specified or described in the order to be a facility—

- (a) for the purposes of the community welfare legislation generally, or
- (b) for the purposes of any specified provision of the community welfare legislation.

**Editorial note—**

Order published in Gazette No 8 of 15.1.1988, p 223 and amended in Gazette No 78 of 23.6.1989, p 3653. From April 2021, PCO is no longer updating notes in provisions of in force titles about related gazette notices. To search for related gazette notices, please use the Gazette Search functionality.

- (2) The Minister may, by the order by which any premises are declared to be a facility or by any subsequent order published in the Gazette, give a name to the facility.
- (3) An order under subsection (1) may declare any premises specified or described in the order to be one or more kinds of facility.
- (4) An order under subsection (1) shall not be made in relation to premises under the control of a person (other than the Crown or a person acting on behalf of the Crown) except with the consent in writing of the firstmentioned person.
- (5) An order under subsection (1) shall not be made in relation to premises under the control of a Minister (other than the Minister administering this Act) except with the consent in writing of that other Minister.
- (6) The Minister may establish and maintain, on any facility that comprises premises that are under the control of the Crown or a person acting on behalf of the Crown, such establishments as the Minister considers necessary for the purpose of carrying out or giving effect to the community welfare legislation.

**3B (Repealed)**

**4 Objects of community welfare legislation**

- (1) The objects of the community welfare legislation are—
  - (a) to promote, protect, develop, maintain and improve the well-being of the people of New South Wales to the maximum extent possible,
  - (b) to promote the welfare of the family as the basis of community well-being,
  - (c) to ensure the provision, to the maximum extent possible, of services for, and assistance to, persons disadvantaged because of—
    - (i) lack of adequate family or social support,
    - (ii) personal or family problems that inhibit adequate social functioning,
    - (iii) the breakdown of the family as a social unit,
    - (iv) lack of adequate food, shelter or other basic necessities,

- (v) physical or intellectual impairment,
  - (vi) their being members of an ethnic group which has inadequate access to services or resources available in the community,
  - (vii) age, whether young, advanced or other,
  - (viii) lack of information about or access to services or resources available in the community, or
  - (ix) their residing in places which lack basic services essential to the proper functioning of those persons,
- (d) to promote the welfare of Aborigines on the basis of a recognition of—
- (i) Aboriginal culture and identity,
  - (ii) Aboriginal community structures,
  - (iii) Aboriginal community standards,
  - (iv) the rights of Aborigines to raise and protect their own children, and
  - (v) the rights of Aborigines to be involved in the decision-making processes that affect them and their children,
- (e) to encourage the establishment of community welfare and other services necessary to promote, protect, develop, maintain and improve the well-being of persons,
- (f) to assist and encourage collaboration among persons and organisations engaged in the promotion of community welfare or the provision of community welfare services,
- (g) to promote and encourage research, education, instruction and training in matters relating to community welfare,
- (h) to promote and facilitate the provision by persons and organisations of services to complement any community welfare service,
- (i) to promote the involvement of the community in the provision of community welfare services and in the social development of the community, and
- (j) to co-ordinate the allocation of funds for community welfare services.
- (2) The provisions of any paragraph of subsection (1) shall not be construed as limiting or being limited by the operation of any other provision of the community welfare legislation.

- (3) In making any appointment under the community welfare legislation, the Minister shall have regard to the objects specified in subsection (1).

## **5 Delegation**

- (1) The Minister may delegate to the Secretary, or to any other person, the exercise of any of the Minister's functions under the community welfare legislation, other than this power of delegation.
- (2) The Secretary may delegate to any person the exercise of—
- (a) any of the functions delegated to the Secretary by the Minister, or
  - (b) any of the other functions of the Secretary under the community welfare legislation, other than this power of delegation.
- (3) In this section, a reference to the community welfare legislation includes a reference to each of the following Acts (and to any instrument under the Act) even though the Act may not be administered by the Minister within the Department—

*Children (Criminal Proceedings) Act 1987*

*Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997*

- (4) However, a reference to community welfare legislation in this section does not include a reference to the *Boarding Houses Act 2012* even if it is wholly or partly administered by the Minister.
- (5)–(7) (Repealed)

## **Part 2 Community welfare and social development**

### **Division 1 Functions of Minister and Secretary**

#### **6 Power of Minister in relation to community welfare and social development**

- (1) The Minister may—
- (a) conduct research into community welfare and social development and the adequacy and efficacy of the community welfare legislation, and of the administration of the community welfare legislation, and evaluate the information gained from any such research,
  - (b) without limiting paragraph (a), conduct research to identify groups of persons who are or who are likely to become disadvantaged, as referred to in section 4 (1) (c),
  - (c) review, monitor and evaluate programmes for the provision of community welfare services and social development programmes that are carried out under the community welfare legislation or that are financed, wholly or partly, out of funds

provided by Parliament for the administration of the community welfare legislation,

- (d) grant to such persons or organisations concerned in community welfare or social development as the Minister thinks fit such access to publications and information in the possession of the Department (including the results of any research or evaluation) as the Minister thinks fit and in such manner as the Minister considers would preserve any necessary confidentiality and the privacy of persons,
  - (e) develop and carry out, or provide assistance and support for the development and carrying out by persons or organisations of, programmes for the provision of community welfare services and social development programmes the objectives of which are consistent with any of the objects of the community welfare legislation, and
  - (f) with respect to any kind of assistance that may be granted under the community welfare legislation, cause to be published guidelines specifying the circumstances in which that assistance may be granted.
- (2) Any assistance or support referred to in subsection (1) (e) may be provided on such conditions as are agreed upon by the Minister and the person or organisation to whom or to which the assistance or support is to be provided.
- (3) In the exercise of any function under subsection (1) (e), the Minister shall have regard to the desirability of exercising that function with respect to programmes that—
- (a) develop and strengthen local neighbourhood and community interests,
  - (b) are based on the principle of self-help or the transfer of skills and knowledge, or
  - (c) take into consideration the multi-cultural nature of the community.
- (4) The provisions of any paragraph of subsection (1) shall not be construed as limiting or being limited by the operation of any other provision of this Act.

## **7 Assistance funds for community welfare and social development programs**

- (1) The Minister may establish and maintain funds (in this section referred to as **assistance funds**) for the purpose of providing assistance and support for any programmes, as referred to in section 6 (1) (e), being carried out or to be carried out by any persons, other than the Minister, or by any organisations.
- (2) An assistance fund shall consist of—
- (a) such money as may be provided from time to time by Parliament for the purpose of the carrying out of the programmes for which the assistance fund is established and maintained, and

(b) such other money as may be allocated to the assistance fund from time to time from the Community Welfare Fund.

(3) Payments out of an assistance fund may be made for the purpose of carrying out the programmes for which the assistance fund is established and maintained and may be so made only with the approval of the Minister.

(3A) Part 4 of the [Disability Inclusion Act 2014](#) applies to payments out of an assistance fund in the same way as it applies to financial assistance provided under that Act if the payments are to persons or organisations for whom financial assistance may be provided under that Act.

(4) The Minister shall, before giving any such approval, take into consideration any recommendation made by any committee having functions to advise the Minister with respect to those programmes.

## **8 Honorary welfare officers**

(1) The Minister may appoint honorary welfare officers to carry out such duties under the community welfare legislation as may be prescribed by the regulations.

(2) The Secretary shall issue each honorary welfare officer with an identity card evidencing the officer's appointment.

(3) The Secretary may provide such training and support for honorary welfare officers as the Secretary thinks fit.

## **9 Preparation of policies and programmes by the Secretary**

(1) The Secretary shall, when given directions by the Minister to do so, cause to be prepared statements of proposed policies with respect to community welfare and social development and proposed programmes for the implementation of those policies.

(2) If the Minister so approves, the Secretary may—

(a) invite participation by such persons and organisations concerned in community welfare or social development as the Secretary thinks fit in the preparation of any such statements or programmes,

(b) cause drafts of any such statements or programmes to be made available for public comment before their submission, with or without amendment, to the Minister, and

(c) cause any such statements or programmes, and any documents or matter used in their preparation, to be published and made available to the public.

## **10 Assessment of community welfare and social development programmes by the**

## **Secretary**

The Secretary shall, when given directions by the Minister to do so—

- (a) examine any proposed community welfare or social development programmes specified in those directions,
- (b) review, monitor and evaluate any community welfare or social development programmes that are—
  - (i) carried out under the community welfare legislation, or
  - (ii) financed, wholly or partly, out of funds provided by Parliament for the administration of the community welfare legislation,for the purpose of determining whether they fulfil their objectives and whether their objectives are of value to the community, and
- (c) furnish to the Minister a report of any thing done pursuant to paragraph (a) or (b), being a report that contains submissions with respect to—
  - (i) the priorities that should be accorded to the implementation or improvement of any of the programmes the subject of any such report, and
  - (ii) the resources necessary for the implementation or improvement of any such programmes.

## **11 Arrangements to use services**

- (1) For the purpose of the exercise of any of the Minister's functions under the community welfare legislation, the Minister may enter into an arrangement (either in consideration of the payment of a fee or without charge to the Minister) to use the services of any person or organisation.
- (2) For the purpose of the exercise of any of the Secretary's functions, or any of an employee's functions, under the community welfare legislation, the Secretary may, with the approval of the Minister, enter into an arrangement (either in consideration of a fee or without charge to the Secretary) to use the services of any person or organisation.
- (3) For the purpose of the promoting of any of the objects of the community welfare legislation, the Minister, or the Secretary with the approval of the Minister, may enter into an arrangement (either in consideration of the payment of a fee or without charge to the Minister or the Secretary) to use the services of any person or organisation.
- (4) This section does not extend to authorising the Minister or the Secretary to enter into a contract of employment, other than a contract of employment on a temporary or casual basis.

- (5) A contract of employment on a temporary or casual basis may be entered into only on such conditions as the Public Service Commissioner may approve.

## **12 Community Welfare Fund**

- (1) There shall be established in the Special Deposits Account in the Treasury a fund to be called the “Community Welfare Fund”.
- (2) The Community Welfare Fund shall consist of such money as may be provided by Parliament for payment into that fund together with any money paid by any person to the Minister or the Secretary for the purpose of providing community welfare services generally or of a specified kind.

## **13 Application of Community Welfare Fund**

- (1) The Community Welfare Fund may be applied by the Secretary, with the written approval of the Minister, for the purpose of—
  - (a) except as provided by paragraph (b)—providing community welfare services generally, or
  - (b) to the extent to which the fund represents money paid for the purpose of providing community welfare services of a kind specified by the person who made the payment—providing community welfare services of that kind.
- (2) Any payments from the Community Welfare Fund may be made directly to persons in need of community welfare services or to approved non-Government organisations for the relief of those persons.

## **13A Acquisition and disposal of land**

- (1) The Minister may, for the purposes of the community welfare legislation, acquire land (including an interest in land) by agreement or by compulsory process in accordance with the [Land Acquisition \(Just Terms Compensation\) Act 1991](#).
- (2) The Minister may, for the purposes of the community welfare legislation, acquire land or other property by gift, devise or bequest.
- (3) The Minister may agree to a condition of any such gift, devise or bequest, and the rule of law against remoteness of vesting does not apply to any such condition.
- (4) The Minister may expend money—
  - (a) on the improvement of any land acquired under this section, or
  - (b) on the improvement, for the purposes of the community welfare legislation, of any other land,

even though the improvement or the land may not be used solely for the purposes of

the community welfare legislation.

(5) The Minister may—

- (a) for the purposes of the community welfare legislation, grant a lease or licence of any land acquired under this section, and
- (b) in the case of land that is no longer required for the purpose for which it was acquired, grant a lease or licence of the land or sell or otherwise dispose of the land.

(6) The Minister may make commercial use of land acquired under this section if that use is associated with a purpose for which land may be so acquired.

### **13B, 13C (Repealed)**

## **Division 2 Committees**

### **14-16 (Repealed)**

### **17 Committees**

- (1) The Minister may, by order in writing, establish such regional, local, special or other advisory committees as the Minister thinks fit.
- (2) The functions of a committee are to exercise the functions specified in respect of it in the instrument establishing it, or in a subsequent instrument executed by the Minister, and to advise the Minister on such matters as may be referred to it by the Minister.
- (3) The Minister shall appoint one of the members of a committee to be the chairperson of the committee.
- (4) The chairperson of a committee may be referred to as the chairman or chairwoman, as the case may require.
- (5) A member of a committee (other than a public servant) is entitled to be paid such remuneration (including travelling and subsistence allowances) as the Minister may from time to time determine in respect of the member.
- (6) Schedule 2 applies to a committee.

### **18 Assistance to committees**

- (1) The Minister may provide assistance (including financial assistance) for the proper functioning of any committee.
- (2) Without limiting the Minister's powers under any other provision of this Act, the Minister may make payments out of money provided by Parliament for the purpose of providing the assistance referred to in subsection (1).

## **19 Reports**

- (1) Each committee must give the Minister, at the times and in respect of the periods the Minister directs, reports on the activities of the committee.
- (2) A report must deal with the matters the Minister directs and the other matters the committee considers appropriate to include in the report.

## **Part 3**

### **20-34 (Repealed)**

## **Part 4 General welfare assistance**

### **35 Objects of Part**

The objects of this Part are as follows—

- (a) to ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that assistance and supportive services are provided to persons in need or distress,
- (b) to ensure that, whenever relevant, assistance and supportive services are aimed at preventing the breakdown of the family as a social unit.

### **36 General assistance**

- (1) The Minister may—
  - (a) provide assistance (including financial assistance) for the relief of persons in need or distress,
  - (b) provide home support services (that is, assistance in the carrying out of work of a domestic or home-maintenance nature) to persons unable to carry out that work,
  - (c) provide homemaker services (that is, services to assist families in the management of their homes) with the object of preventing the breakdown of the family as a social unit,
  - (d) provide services designed to meet the needs of children,
  - (e) provide services designed to meet the needs of persons who are disadvantaged as referred to in section 4 (1) (c), and
  - (f) provide assistance (including financial assistance) to approved non-Government organisations whose objects are or include the provision of assistance or services referred to in this subsection.
- (2) Without limiting the Minister's powers under any other provision of this Act, the Minister may make payments out of money provided by Parliament for the purpose of providing assistance referred to in subsection (1) (a) or (f).

## Part 5 Disaster welfare assistance

### 37 Definitions

- (1) In this Part—

**disaster** means an occurrence, whether or not due to natural causes, that causes loss of life, injury, distress or danger to persons or loss of, or damage to, property.

**disaster victim** means a person who is in need or distress, or whose property is lost or damaged, as a result of a disaster.

**private disaster relief fund** means a fund raised by or resulting from an appeal for support for the purpose of assisting persons who are or may become disaster victims and includes any investments made out of money in such a fund, but does not include the Community Disaster Relief Fund.

- (2) A reference in this Part to a particular disaster includes a reference to a particular kind of disaster.
- (3) (Repealed)

### 37A Declaration of disasters

- (1) The Minister may, by order in writing, declare a disaster to be a disaster to which section 38 applies.
- (2) The Minister shall not make such an order unless satisfied that the disaster is of such a nature as to warrant its being treated as a disaster to which section 38 applies.
- (3) The Minister shall, as soon as practicable after making such an order, cause a copy of the order to be published in the Gazette.

### 38 Co-ordination of welfare services for victims of declared disasters

- (1) The Secretary may, in accordance with any directions given by the Minister, take such steps as the Secretary thinks fit for the purpose of co-ordinating the provision of community welfare services for disaster victims of a disaster declared under section 37A.
- (2) The Secretary shall not exercise any functions under subsection (1) in a manner inconsistent with any of the provisions of the [State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989](#).

### 38A Financial and other assistance to disaster victims

- (1) The Secretary may, in accordance with any directions given by the Minister, provide assistance (including financial assistance out of money to be provided by Parliament) to—

- (a) disaster victims, and
- (b) approved non-Government organisations whose objects are or include the provision of assistance to disaster victims.

(2) Nothing in this section limits the operation of Part 4.

### **39 Community Disaster Relief Fund**

(1) There shall be established by the Secretary a fund to be called the “Community Disaster Relief Fund”.

(2) The Community Disaster Relief Fund shall consist of—

- (a) any money paid to the Secretary by any person for the relief of disaster victims generally or disaster victims of a particular disaster specified by the person making the payment, and
- (b) any fund transferred to or vested in the Secretary under section 41.

### **40 Application of Community Disaster Relief Fund**

(1) The Community Disaster Relief Fund—

(a) to the extent to which it represents—

- (i) money paid to the Secretary under section 39 (2) (a) for the relief of disaster victims of a particular disaster, or
- (ii) a private disaster relief fund raised by or resulting from an appeal for support for the purpose of assisting persons who are or may become disaster victims as a result of a particular disaster,

shall, so far as it is practicable in the opinion of the Secretary to do so, be applied for the purpose of assisting disaster victims of that disaster, or

(b) except as provided by paragraph (a), shall be applied—

- (i) for the purpose of assisting disaster victims of any disaster,
- (ii) for the purpose of acquiring stores and equipment to be used for the purpose of assisting victims of future disasters, or
- (iii) for the purpose of planning, and training persons, to cope with the effects of disasters.

(2) Any payments from the Community Disaster Relief Fund may be made directly for any purpose referred to in subsection (1) or to approved non-Government organisations for any such purpose.

#### **41 Transfer of private disaster relief funds to Community Disaster Relief Fund**

- (1) Any person in whom a private disaster relief fund is vested may transfer that fund to the Secretary to form part of the Community Disaster Relief Fund.
- (2) Where the Governor is satisfied that—
  - (a) a fund is a private disaster relief fund established in respect of a particular disaster,
  - (b) no payment has been made from the fund for a period of one year or more to a disaster victim of that disaster, and
  - (c) the fund is not likely to be applied for making payments to disaster victims of that disaster,the Governor may, by order published in the Gazette, vest the fund in the Secretary to form part of the Community Disaster Relief Fund.
- (3) A fund may be transferred to the Secretary under subsection (1) notwithstanding any trust on which it is held.
- (4) A fund transferred to the Secretary under subsection (1), or vested in the Secretary under subsection (2), shall be held by the Secretary freed and discharged from any trust to which it was subject immediately before the transfer or vesting.

#### **42 Investment of Community Disaster Relief Fund**

- (1) Money in the Community Disaster Relief Fund may be invested in any investment authorised for the time being by the [Trustee Act 1925](#).
- (2) The Secretary may make arrangements with the NSW Trustee and Guardian for the management of the Community Disaster Relief Fund.

### **Part 6**

#### **43–74B (Repealed)**

### **Part 7 Miscellaneous**

#### **75 Limitation of personal liability**

No matter or thing done by the Minister, the Secretary, an employee or any other person shall, if the matter or thing was done in good faith and with reasonable care for the purposes of executing the community welfare legislation, subject the Minister, the Secretary, the employee or that other person personally to any action, liability, claim or demand.

## **76 Disclosure of information**

A person shall not disclose any information obtained in connection with the administration or execution of this Act unless the disclosure is made—

- (a) with the consent of the person from whom the information was obtained,
- (b) in connection with the administration or execution of this Act,
- (c) for the purposes of any legal proceedings arising out of this Act or of any report of any such proceedings,
- (d) in accordance with a requirement imposed under the [Ombudsman Act 1974](#), or
- (e) with other lawful excuse.

Penalty: 10 penalty units or imprisonment for 12 months, or both.

## **76A Obstruction etc of officers**

A person who wilfully hinders, obstructs, delays, assaults or threatens with violence another person in the exercise of that other person's functions under this Act is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty—10 penalty units or imprisonment for 12 months, or both.

## **76B Person falsely representing as an employee**

A person, not being an employee, who—

- (a) assumes or uses the designation of employee or falsely represents himself or herself to be officially associated in any capacity with the Department, or
- (b) uses, for any fraudulent purpose, any designation which that person previously held in the Department,

is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty—10 penalty units or imprisonment for 12 months, or both.

## **76C False or misleading statements**

A person must not, in any application under this Act or in connection with an inquiry made by an employee in relation to any such application—

- (a) make a statement, or
- (b) furnish information,

that the person knows to be false or misleading in a material particular.

Maximum penalty—5 penalty units.

## **77 Proceedings for offences**

Proceedings for an offence against this Act shall be dealt with summarily before the Local Court.

## **78 Regulations**

(1) The Governor may make regulations, not inconsistent with this Act, for or with respect to any matter that by this Act is required or permitted to be prescribed or that is necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act and, in particular, for or with respect to—

(a) any committee and its members and functions,

(a1) (Repealed)

(b) the Community Welfare Fund, and

(c) (Repealed)

(d) the Community Disaster Relief Fund.

(e) (Repealed)

(2) A regulation may create an offence punishable by a penalty not exceeding 5 penalty units.

## **79 Savings, transitional and other provisions**

Schedule 4 has effect.

## **Schedule 1 (Repealed)**

## **Schedule 2 Procedure of committees**

(Section 17)

### **1 Definition**

In this Schedule, a reference to a member of a committee includes, subject to the regulations, a reference to the member's alternative appointed and acting in accordance with the regulations made for the purposes of clause 9.

### **2 Quorum**

The quorum for a meeting of a committee is a majority of the members of the committee.

### **3 Temporary chairperson**

In the absence of the chairperson from any meeting of a committee, the members present shall appoint one of their number to preside at that meeting.

#### **4 Casting vote of chairperson**

The chairperson or member presiding at a meeting of a committee shall have a deliberative vote and, in the event of an equality of votes, shall have a second or casting vote.

#### **5 Voting**

A decision supported by a majority of votes cast at a meeting of a committee at which a quorum is present is the decision of the committee.

#### **6 (Repealed)**

#### **7 Meetings**

The frequency of meetings of a committee and the procedures for the conduct of business at the meetings is, subject to any directions of the Minister, as determined by the committee.

#### **8 Minutes**

The chairperson of a committee must cause minutes of the proceedings and decisions at each meeting of the committee to be kept, and must give a copy of the minutes to the Secretary as soon as practicable after each meeting.

#### **9 Alternative members**

The regulations may make provision for or with respect to the appointment of alternative members for members of a committee and the exercise by them of the functions of those members.

#### **10 Subcommittees**

- (1) A committee may establish subcommittees (whether or not consisting of members of the committee) for the purpose of advising the committee about matters within the scope of the committee's functions as may be referred to the subcommittee by the committee.
- (2) The convenor of a subcommittee must be a member of the committee that establishes it.

#### **11 Representatives of departments and authorities**

A committee may invite representatives of other organisations (including State or Commonwealth departments and public or local authorities) to participate, but not vote, in the proceedings and deliberations of the committee.

#### **12 Secretary**

The secretary of a committee shall be an employee designated by the Secretary.

### 13 Application of Schedule to subcommittee

The provisions of this Schedule apply to a subcommittee of a committee in the same way as they apply to the committee.

## Schedule 3 (Repealed)

## Schedule 4 Savings, transitional and other provisions

(Section 79)

## Part 1 Regulations

### 1 Regulations

- (1) The regulations may contain provisions of a savings or transitional nature consequent on the enactment of the following Acts—

*Community Welfare (Amendment) Act 1992*

- (2) Any such provision may, if the regulations so provide, take effect from the date of assent to the Act concerned or from a later date.
- (3) To the extent to which any such provision takes effect from a date that is earlier than the date of its publication in the Gazette, the provision does not operate so as—
  - (a) to affect, in a manner prejudicial to any person (other than the State or an authority of the State), the rights of that person existing before the date of its publication, or
  - (b) to impose liabilities on any person (other than the State or an authority of the State) in respect of anything done or omitted before the date of its publication.

## Part 2 Provisions consequent on the **Community Welfare (Amendment) Act 1992**

### 2 Definitions

In this Part—

**appointed day** means the date of commencement of the *Community Welfare (Amendment) Act 1992*.

**Corporation** means the Community Welfare Employment Corporation constituted by section 13B before its repeal by the *Community Welfare (Amendment) Act 1992*.

**transferred person** means a person who becomes a member of staff of the Department of Community Services because of clause 7.

### **3 Dissolution of Corporation**

On the appointed day, the Corporation is dissolved.

### **4 References to Corporation or its staff**

On and from the appointed day, and subject to the regulations, a reference in any other Act, or in any instrument made under any Act or in any other instrument of any kind—

- (a) to the Corporation is to be read as a reference to the Director-General, and
- (b) to officers or employees (however expressed) of the Corporation is to be read as a reference to officers of the Department.

### **5 Transfer of assets, liabilities etc of Corporation**

On the appointed day—

- (a) the assets and liabilities of the Corporation become assets and liabilities of the Crown, and
- (b) all proceedings by or against the Corporation pending immediately before the appointed day become proceedings pending by or against the Crown.

### **6 Actions etc of Corporation**

Any act, matter or thing done or omitted to be done by or in respect of the Corporation is (to the extent that the act, matter or thing had any force or effect immediately before the appointed day) taken to have been done or omitted to be done by or in respect of the Director-General.

### **7 Transfer of employees of Corporation to Department of Community Services**

- (1) On the appointed day, a person who was an employee of the Corporation immediately before that day is taken to be a member of the staff of the Department of Community Services employed under Part 2 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1988* in the same capacity (whether temporary or otherwise) as that in which the person was employed by the Corporation immediately before that day. This subclause has effect subject to any order under subclause (3).
- (2) Subclause (1) does not have the effect of appointing a person to a position under the *Public Sector Management Act 1988*.
- (3) The Governor may, on the recommendation of the Minister, by order published in the Gazette, appoint a person who is a member of staff of the Department of Community Services by virtue of subclause (1) to a position under Part 2 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1988* in the Department of Community Services.
- (4) A person who is the subject of such an order is taken for all purposes to have been

appointed to that position in accordance with the terms of the order and to have been so appointed in accordance with any relevant provision of the [Public Sector Management Act 1988](#).

(5) This clause has effect despite anything in the [Public Sector Management Act 1988](#).

## **8 Salary, wages and allowances of transferred persons**

A transferred person is entitled to be paid salary or wages, and allowances, at a rate not less than the rate that was payable to the person as an employee of the Corporation immediately before the appointed day, until the salary, wages or allowances is or are varied or altered—

- (a) by an award or agreement under the [Industrial Relations Act 1991](#), or
- (b) by or under the [Public Sector Management Act 1988](#), or
- (c) otherwise in accordance with law.

## **9 Other conditions of employment of transferred persons**

- (1) This clause applies to any condition of employment of a transferred person (other than salary, wages or allowances) that was, immediately before the appointed day, regulated by an award or agreement (within the meaning of the [Industrial Relations Act 1991](#)) or a lawful determination applicable to the person as an employee of the Corporation.
- (2) A condition to which this clause applies (so long as it does not conflict with any provision of the [Public Sector Management Act 1988](#) or the regulations under that Act) is to continue to apply to the person until it is regulated—
  - (a) by an award or agreement under the [Industrial Relations Act 1991](#), or
  - (b) by or under the [Public Sector Management Act 1988](#), or
  - (c) otherwise in accordance with law.

## **10 Preservation of rights of transferred persons**

- (1) A transferred person is to retain any rights (including any rights to deferred or extended leave and any payment, pension or gratuity) accrued as an employee of the Corporation.
- (2) For the purposes of the accrual of any such rights after the appointed day, service as an employee of the Corporation is taken to be service as a public servant.
- (3) This clause applies to and in respect of the preservation of rights of those transferred persons who, but for the operation of this clause, would not be entitled to retain those rights.

## **11 Conditions of employment for new staff**

- (1) The Director-General of the Department of Community Services may declare that a condition of employment (including salary, wages and allowances) that was regulated by an award, agreement (within the meaning of the [Industrial Relations Act 1991](#)) or lawful determination applicable to employees of the Corporation applies to a position—
  - (a) that, in the Director-General's opinion, is comparable to a position governed by the award, determination or agreement, and
  - (b) to which a person is appointed after the appointed day.
- (2) Such a condition applies only until it is varied, altered or regulated—
  - (a) by an award or agreement under the [Industrial Relations Act 1991](#), or
  - (b) by or under the [Public Sector Management Act 1988](#), or
  - (c) otherwise in accordance with law.
- (3) The Director-General is not to make a declaration under this clause in respect of a condition unless the award, agreement or determination that regulates it applies, at the time the declaration is made, to transferred persons.
- (4) This clause does not apply to a condition that conflicts with any provision of the [Public Sector Management Act 1988](#).
- (5) A declaration under this clause is to be published in the Gazette.

## **12 Previous agreement for transfer of staff to Corporation**

- (1) This clause applies to the agreement (No 2522 of 1989) dated 30 November 1989 and expressed to be between—
  - (a) the Community Welfare Employment Corporation and the Public Employment Industrial Relations Authority, and
  - (b) the Health and Research Employees' Association of New South Wales, the Hospital Officers' Association of New South Wales, the New South Wales Nurses' Association, the New South Wales Public Medical Officers' Association and the Public Service Association of New South Wales.
- (2) The agreement is taken to have been valid and effective according to its terms with effect on and from 1 July 1989.
- (3) In particular, the agreement is taken to have been effective to transfer the officers and employees referred to in the agreement to the employment of the Corporation in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

- (4) However, subclauses (2) and (3) do not apply in relation to persons who were officers of the Department of Health appointed and employed under Part 2 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1988* immediately before 1 July 1989.
- (5) If not previously terminated, the agreement is terminated on the appointed day, without prejudice to the other clauses of this Schedule.