

THE SECULAR ASSOCIATION OF NSW

**PO Box R684
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Governor-General Amendment (Cessation of Allowances in the Public Interest) Bill 2023

The Secular Association of NSW supports this legislation, which extends the public law principle that an allowance or honorarium post-service can be withdrawn from a former Governor-General, or their spouse, where it is no longer appropriate or in the public interest for it to be continued.

This Bill applies this principle which can be exercised either through the Minister making a declaration, or through a House of Parliament passing a resolution that a former Governor-General has engaged in serious misconduct, disentitling them or their spouse to the extremely generous post office entitlements of a Governor-General.

When it is no longer in the public interest for it to be paid, there needs to be a capacity for either House of Parliament or the Minister to make a determination that the substantial services and income to both the retiring Governor-General and spouse are against the public interest.

Our Association believes this Bill provides much needed accountability and transparency in the issuing of these pensions and goes to the point that no one is above the law and all are equal in the eyes of the law.

Meg Wallace LLB (Hons) PhD

President

1 April 2023