

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Introduction and referral of Bill

1.1 On 30 March 2006 the provisions of the Bill were referred to the Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 2 May 2006.

Conduct of the inquiry

1.2 The inquiry was advertised in *The Australian* newspaper on 4 and 12 April 2006, and the Committee also wrote to a number of organisations and individuals. Interested persons were invited to provide submissions by 18 April 2006. Details of the inquiry, the Bill, and associated documents were placed on the Committee's website.

1.3 The Committee received four submissions. A list of submissions is at Appendix 1. The Committee thanks those organisations and individuals who made submissions.

The Bill

1.4 The Federal Magistrates Amendment (Disability and Death Benefits) Bill 2006 seeks to amend the *Federal Magistrates Act 1999* (the Act) to provide statutory disability cover and death benefits for Federal Magistrates. An examination of the main provisions of the Bill is in Chapter 2.

Note on references

1.5 References in this report are to individual submissions as received by the Committee, not to a bound volume.

