

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Issued by the authority of the Minister for Finance and Administration

Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997

Determination 2005/14 to vary and abolish a Special Account

Purposes of Determination 2005/14

The attached instrument makes a determination under section 20 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA Act) to vary and subsequently abolish the *Human Pituitary Hormones Account*.

Special Accounts generally

In accordance with the Constitution, all revenues or moneys raised or received by the Executive Government of the Commonwealth form one Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) and may not be used unless in accordance with an appropriation by the Parliament for the purposes of the Commonwealth. A Special Accounts is established by a determination that sets out the amounts that may be credited and the purposes for which it may be debited. Special Accounts established by determination are supported by an appropriation under section 20 of the FMA Act. In effect, Special Accounts allow specified amounts from the CRF to be expended for a particular specified purpose.

A Special Account determination can be varied by a subsequent determination by the Finance Minister.

The Finance Minister must table a copy of a determination relating to a Special Account in each House of Parliament. Either House may disallow a determination within five sitting days of tabling. If the determination is not disallowed, it comes into effect on the calendar day after the last day on which it could have been disallowed. Regulation 10 of the *Legislative Instruments Regulations 2004* preserves the disallowance provisions under section 22 of the FMA Act by exempting Special Account determinations from subsections 57(2) and 57(5) of the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003*.

The notes to determinations identify legislation and other laws that allow or require amounts to be credited to, or debited from, the Special Account.

Special Accounts can also be abolished by a determination of the Finance Minister. However, there is no requirement to table the determination to abolish a Special Account and, therefore, it has immediate effect.

Operation of the Determination 2005/14

Purpose of the Human Pituitary Hormones Account

A new Special Account, entitled Human Pituitary Hormones Special Account ('the new Account') is required in order to give effect to changes that are required to the Human Pituitary Hormones Account, but which it is not practical to make by variation to the Human Pituitary Hormones Account, due to the way in which the Original Determination was structured.

The current purposes of the Human Pituitary Hormones Account are:

For expenditure through grants and other payments on:

- (1) Counselling and support services to recipients of pituitary-derived hormones and their families;
- (2) Medical and other care to people treated with pituitary-derived hormones should they contract Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease as a result of the treatment.

Changes required

The changes required to the Human Pituitary Hormones Account are set out below:

- Inclusion of the ability to make one-off payments to hormone recipients who can demonstrate that they suffered a recognised psychiatric illness prior to 1 January 1998, resulting from been informed that they are at greater risk of contracting CJD. This is consistent with a Government decision.
- Inclusion of the ability to make one-off payments to children who have suffered a recognised psychiatric illness due to the death from CJD of a parent who had received pituitary-derived hormones. This is consistent with a recommendation of the National Pituitary Hormone Advisory Council and subsequent government agreement.

As part of a programme to enhance the clarity of Special Account determinations and to remove any areas of doubt over the scope of the purposes of Special Accounts, the following changes are being incorporated within the determinations of all Special Accounts, where appropriate, and where the need for other variations arise:

- *a capacity to return excess amounts to the Budget* (that is, reduce the balance of the Special Account without a real or notional payment). This provision does not allow amounts to be transferred to another Special Account, or to be allocated for any other purpose, that is not consistent with the purposes of the Special Account;
- *a clause to allow for amounts to be repaid when another Act or law allows it.* This has always been permitted by section 28 of the FMA Act, but is now included in determinations to simplify accounting for these transactions; and
- *notes that identify general credits and debits that can be made to Special Accounts,* for information purposes, in reliance on other laws.

Limitations in the structure of the Original Determination

It is not practical to vary the Original Determination signed by the delegate of the Minister for Finance on 31 December 1997 (establishing a Human Pituitary Hormones Reserve as a component of the Reserved Money Fund). This is because the format of the determination constrains the amount of information that can be included. In addition, the Original Determination was not made in a reader-friendly format, suitable for inclusion on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments. Accordingly, a new Account is being established (determination 2005/15) to provide for the continuation of the activities of the Human Pituitary Hormones Account, the incorporation of the necessary changes, and to ensure that the determination is as clear and informative as possible.

Effect of this determination

The Human Pituitary Hormones Account is being varied by this determination (determination 2005/14) to enable its balance to be credited to the new Account. Once the balance of the Human Pituitary Hormones Account reaches zero, clause 3 of the determination will abolish the Human Pituitary Hormones Account.

Consultation

The *Department of Health and Ageing* is the agency affected by this instrument. The agency was provided with drafts of the instrument before it was finalised and agrees with the form of the instrument. As the instrument is for internal machinery of government purposes only, no consultation was considered necessary with other persons (see sections 17 and 18 of the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003*).

Estimates of transactions on the Human Pituitary Hormones Account

	Opening Balance 2004-05 \$'000	Credits 2004-05 \$'000	Debits 2004-05 ⁽¹⁾ \$'000	Closing Balance 2004-05 \$'000
Human Pituitary Hormones Account	4,016	0	4,016	0

1. Balance debited from the Human Pituitary Hormones Account and credited to the new Account.