

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to amend the Ombudsman Act 1974 to enable the Ombudsman to obtain information that is subject to the client legal privilege of a public authority (section 21 of that Act currently provides that the Ombudsman must set aside a requirement that a person provide information during an investigation or inquiry if it appears that the information is subject to a privilege of a public authority based on legal professional privilege (now known as client legal privilege)).

Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on the date of assent to the proposed Act.

Clause 3 amends the Ombudsman Act 1974 to remove exceptions relating to legal professional privilege so that the Ombudsman may require information, or enter premises to inspect any document or thing, despite any privilege of a public authority

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that the public authority might claim in a court of law. The amendment also enables regulations of a savings or transitional nature consequent on the enactment of the proposed Act to be made.