

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 *Evidence Act 1995* to protect journalists' sources from disclosure in legal proceedings and, in so doing, enhance the ability of journalists to undertake investigative work. As a result of the proposed Act, a journalist will not be compelled to answer any question or produce any document that would disclose an informant's identity if the journalist has promised not to disclose the informant's identity. However, such protection will not apply if the court is satisfied that the public interest in having the informant's identity disclosed outweighs both any likely adverse effect of the disclosure on the informant (or any other person) and the public interest in the communication of facts and opinion by the news media to the public (including the ability of the news media to access sources of facts).

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.

Schedule 1 amends the *Evidence Act 1995* in the manner described in the above overview.