



New South Wales

# Ombudsman Amendment (Aboriginal Programs) Bill 2014

## 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*:

- (a) to provide for the monitoring and assessment by the Ombudsman of designated Aboriginal programs (being Government initiatives or services relating to Aboriginal affairs prescribed by the regulations), and
- (b) to provide for the appointment of a Deputy Ombudsman for the purpose of enabling the Ombudsman to monitor and assess those Aboriginal programs.

## 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 1 July 2014.

## Schedule 1 Amendment of Ombudsman Act 1974 No 68

Schedule 1 [1] provides for the appointment of a Deputy Ombudsman for the purpose of enabling the Ombudsman to monitor and assess Aboriginal programs under proposed Part 3B.

Schedule 1 [2] inserts proposed Part 3B (proposed sections 25K–25N) into the Act.

Proposed section 25K enables the regulations to prescribe the Aboriginal programs to which the proposed Part applies.

Proposed section 25L requires the Ombudsman to monitor and assess Aboriginal programs to which the proposed Part applies. The proposed section also applies for that purpose the powers and protections of the Ombudsman in the investigation of complaints.

Proposed section 25M enables the Ombudsman to access information held by public authorities that is reasonably required by the Ombudsman for the purposes of the proposed Part.

Proposed section 25N enables the Ombudsman to report on any matter concerning an Aboriginal program to which the proposed Part applies (including any recommendations for improvements in the delivery of any such Aboriginal program).