

HEALTHCARE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2010

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The purpose of this Bill is to make further provision in respect of emergency evacuations from Norfolk Island by clarifying the circumstances under which payments are to be made or excused.

Clauses 1 and 2 contain the usual provisions for the short title and commencement.

Clause 3 cites the principal Act.

Clause 4 of the Bill amends section 9 of the *Healthcare Act* in its application to payments from the Medical Evacuation Fund to cover the costs of emergency evacuation. In particular the replacement subsection (4) expands the previous references to a person under the age of 18. The old provisions were not clear as to payments in respect of such persons. The changes are intended to make it clear that payments may be made from the Fund in respect of a child aged under 18 years who is not a member of a nuclear family (defined in paragraph 3 of the Schedule to the Act). Otherwise emergency evacuation costs for a child are the responsibility of that child's parents.

22 July 2010