

2010-2011

The Parliament of the  
Commonwealth of Australia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Presented and read a first time*

**Consumer Credit and Corporations  
Legislation Amendment (Enhancements)  
Bill 2011**

**No.     , 2011**

*(Treasury)*

**A Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to  
consumer credit and corporations, and for related  
purposes**



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**A Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to  
consumer credit and corporations, and for related  
purposes**

The Parliament of Australia enacts:

**1 Short title**

This Act may be cited as the *Consumer Credit and Corporations  
Legislation Amendment (Enhancements) Act 2011*.

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## 2 Commencement

- (1) Each provision of this Act specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.

Commencement information		
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Provision(s)	Commencement	Date/Details
1. Sections 1 to 3 and anything in this Act not elsewhere covered by this table	The day this Act receives the Royal Assent.	
2. Schedules 1, 2 and 3	<del>1 March 2013. Immediately after the commencement of Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the <i>National Consumer Credit Protection Amendment (Home Loans and Credit Cards) Act 2011.</i></del>	<del>1 July March 2013</del>
<u>2A. Schedule 2, Part 1</u>	<u>Immediately after the commencement of Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the <i>National Consumer Credit Protection Amendment (Home Loans and Credit Cards) Act 2011.</i></u>	<u>1 July 2012</u>
<u>2B. Schedule 2, Part 2</u>	<u>1 March 2013.</u>	<u>1 March 2013</u>
<u>2C. Schedule 2, items 12 to 14</u>	<u>1 March 2013.</u>	<u>1 March 2013</u>
<u>2D. Schedule 2, item 15</u>	<u>Immediately after the commencement of Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the <i>National Consumer Credit Protection Amendment (Home Loans and Credit Cards) Act 2011.</i></u>	<u>1 July 2012</u>
<u>2E. Schedule 2, items 16 to 18</u>	<u>1 March 2013.</u>	<u>1 March 2013</u>
<u>2F. Schedule 2, items 19 to 20</u>	<u>Immediately after the commencement of Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the <i>National Consumer Credit Protection Amendment (Home Loans and Credit Cards) Act 2011.</i></u>	<u>1 July 2012</u>
<u>2G. Schedule 2, items 21 and 22</u>	<u>1 March 2013.</u>	<u>1 March 2013</u>

<b>Commencement information</b>		
<b>Column 1</b>	<b>Column 2</b>	<b>Column 3</b>
<b>Provision(s)</b>	<b>Commencement</b>	<b>Date/Details</b>
<a href="#">2H. Schedule 2, item 23</a>	<a href="#">Immediately after the commencement of Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the <i>National Consumer Credit Protection Amendment (Home Loans and Credit Cards) Act 2011.</i></a>	<a href="#">1 July 2012</a>
<a href="#">2J. Schedule 2, items 24 to 26</a>	<a href="#">1 March 2013.</a>	<a href="#">1 March 2013</a>
<a href="#">2K. Schedule 3</a>	<a href="#">1 March 2013.</a>	<a href="#">1 March 2013</a>
3. Schedule 4	1 <del>January</del> <a href="#">July</a> 2013.	1 <del>January</del> <a href="#">July</a> 2013
4. Schedules 5- and 6	<del>1 March 2013. Immediately after the commencement of Schedule 2 to the <i>National Consumer Credit Protection Amendment (Home Loans and Credit Cards) Act 2011.</i></del>	1 <del>July</del> <a href="#">March</a> 2013 <del>2</del>
<a href="#">4A. Schedule 6</a>	<a href="#">Immediately after the commencement of Schedule 2 to the <i>National Consumer Credit Protection Amendment (Home Loans and Credit Cards) Act 2011.</i></a>	<a href="#">1 July 2012</a>
5. Schedule 7	The day after this Act receives the Royal Assent.	

1 Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this Act as originally  
2 enacted. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of  
3 this Act.

4 (2) Any information in column 3 of the table is not part of this Act.  
5 Information may be inserted in this column, or information in it  
6 may be edited, in any published version of this Act.

### 7 **3 Schedule(s)**

8 Each Act that is specified in a Schedule to this Act is amended or  
9 repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedule  
10 concerned, and any other item in a Schedule to this Act has effect  
11 according to its terms.

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## Schedule 1—Enhancements

### Part 1—Protection of debtor in cases of hardship

#### *National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009*

##### **1 Section 72 of the National Credit Code**

Repeal the section, substitute:

##### **72 Changes on grounds of hardship**

###### *Hardship notice*

- (1) If a debtor considers that he or she is or will be unable to meet his or her obligations under a credit contract, the debtor may give the credit provider notice (a **hardship notice**), orally or in writing, of the debtor's inability to meet the obligations.

Note: If a debtor has given a credit provider a hardship notice, there may be requirements (beyond those in section 88) that the credit provider must comply with before beginning enforcement proceedings—see section 89A.

###### *Further information*~~*Credit provider's notice in response to hardship notice*~~

- (2) Within 21 days after the day of receiving the debtor's hardship notice, the credit provider may give the debtor a notice requiring the debtor to give the credit provider within 21 days specified information relevant to deciding whether and how to change the credit contract to address the debtor's inability to meet the debtor's obligations under the contract.~~must give the debtor:~~

~~(a) if the credit provider agrees to negotiate a change to the credit contract—notice, in the form prescribed by the regulations, that the credit provider agrees to negotiate; or~~

~~(b) if the credit provider does not agree to negotiate a change to the credit contract—a written notice that states:~~

~~(i) that the credit provider does not agree to negotiate; and~~



1 ~~(ii) the reasons for not agreeing to negotiate; and~~

2 ~~(iii) the name of the approved external dispute resolution scheme of~~  
3 ~~which the credit provider is a member; and~~

4 ~~(iv) the debtor's rights under that scheme.~~

5 Criminal penalty: ~~30~~ penalty units.

6 Note: ~~If a debtor has given a credit provider a hardship notice, there may be~~  
7 ~~extra requirements that the credit provider must comply with before~~  
8 ~~beginning enforcement proceedings—see section @89A.~~

9 (3) ~~The debtor must comply with the requirement. A credit provider~~  
10 ~~that has given notice under paragraph (2)(a) may, within 21 days~~  
11 ~~after the day of giving that notice, give a notice under~~  
12 ~~paragraph (2)(b).~~

13 Note: ~~If the debtor does not comply with the requirement, the credit provider~~  
14 ~~may refuse to agree to change the credit contract.~~

15 *Notice of decision on changing credit contract*

16 (4) The credit provider must, before the end of the period identified  
17 under subsection (5), give the debtor a notice:

18 (a) that is in the form (if any) prescribed by the regulations and  
19 records the fact that the credit provider and the debtor have  
20 agreed to change the credit contract; or

21 (b) that is in the form (if any) prescribed by the regulations and  
22 states:

23 (i) the credit provider and the debtor have not agreed to  
24 change the credit contract; and

25 (ii) the reasons why they have not agreed; and

26 (iii) the name and contact details of the approved external  
27 dispute resolution scheme of which the credit provider  
28 is a member; and

29 (iv) the debtor's rights under that scheme.

30 Civil penalty: 2,000 penalty units.

31 (5) The credit provider must give the notice before the end of the  
32 period identified using the table.

Schedule 1 Enhancements

Part 1 Protection of debtor in cases of hardship

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**Period for giving notice**

**If:**

**The period is:**

<u>1</u>	<u>The credit provider does not require information under subsection (2)</u>	<u>21 days after the day of receiving the hardship notice</u>
<u>21</u>	<u>The credit provider requires information under subsection (2) but does not receive any information in compliance with the requirementThe credit provider does not require information under subsection (2)</u>	<u>28 days after the day of making the requirement 21 days after the day of receiving the hardship notice</u>
<u>32</u>	<u>The credit provider requires information under subsection (2) and receives information in compliance with the requirementThe credit provider requires information under subsection (2) but does not receive any information in compliance with the requirement</u>	<u>21 days after the day of receiving the information28 days after the day of making the requirement</u>

1 ~~Subsection (2) is an offence of strict liability.~~

2 ~~Note: — For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.~~

3 **2 Subsection 73(1) of the *National Credit Code***

4 Omit “on any such application”, substitute “to change the credit  
5 contract as a result of a hardship notice by the debtor”.

6 **3 Subsection 74(1) of the *National Credit Code***

7 Omit “in accordance with the application”, substitute “as a result of a  
8 hardship notice by the debtor”.

9 **4 Subsection 74(2) of the *National Credit Code***

10 Repeal the subsection, substitute:

11 (2) The court may, after allowing the applicant, the credit provider and  
12 any guarantor a reasonable opportunity to be heard:

13 (a) by order change the credit contract (but not so as to reduce  
14 the amount ultimately payable by the debtor to the credit  
15 provider under the contract), and make such other orders as it  
16 thinks fit; or

17 (b) refuse to change the credit contract.

1 **5 Subparagraphs 88(3)(f)(i) and (ii) of the *National Credit***  
2 ***Code***

3 Repeal the subparagraphs, substitute:

- 4 (i) give a hardship notice under section 72; or  
5 (ii) give a postponement request under section 94; or

6 **6 After section 89 of the *National Credit Code***

7 Insert:

8 **@89A Effect of hardship notices on enforcement**

9 (1) This section applies if:

- 10 (a) a credit provider is required to give a default notice under  
11 section 88 before beginning enforcement proceedings; and  
12 (b) before or after the credit provider gives the default notice, the  
13 debtor gives the credit provider a hardship notice (the ***current***  
14 ***hardship notice***) under section 72; and  
15 (c) either:  
16 (i) in the 4 months before the day the current hardship  
17 notice is given, the debtor had not given the credit  
18 provider another hardship notice; or  
19 (ii) in that 4-month period, the debtor had given the credit  
20 provider one or more other hardship notices, but the  
21 credit provider reasonably believes that the basis on  
22 which the current hardship notice was given is  
23 materially different from the bases on which the other  
24 hardship notices were given.

25 (2) The credit provider must not begin enforcement proceedings  
26 against the debtor unless:

- 27 (a) the credit provider has given the debtor a notice under  
28 paragraph 72(~~24~~)(b), in response to the current hardship  
29 notice, stating that the credit provider and debtor have not  
30 agreed to change ~~does not agree to negotiate a change to~~ the  
31 credit contract; and  
32 (b) the period of 14 days, starting on the day the credit provider-  
33 lessor gives the notice under paragraph 72(~~42~~)(b), has  
34 expired.

35 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

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**Schedule 1** Enhancements

**Part 1** Protection of debtor in cases of hardship

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1 Note: The credit provider must allow the debtor at least 30 days from the  
2 date of the default notice to remedy the default—see section 88. The  
3 14-day period in subsection (2) may end before, at the same time as,  
4 or after the end of the period for remedying the default specified in the  
5 default notice.

6 (3) However, the credit provider may take possession of mortgaged  
7 goods if the credit provider reasonably believes that:

- 8 (a) the debtor or mortgagor has removed or disposed of the  
9 mortgaged goods, or intends to remove or dispose of them,  
10 without the credit provider’s permission; or  
11 (b) urgent action is necessary to protect the goods.

12 (4) Subsection (2) is an offence of strict liability.

13 Note: For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.

14 **7 Subsection 94(1) of the *National Credit Code***

15 Repeal the subsection, substitute:

16 *Postponement request*

17 (1) A debtor, mortgagor or guarantor who has been given a default  
18 notice under section 88 or a demand for payment under section 90  
19 may, at any time before the end of the period specified in the notice  
20 or demand, request (a *postponement request*), orally or in writing,  
21 that the credit provider negotiate a postponement of:

- 22 (a) the enforcement proceedings; or  
23 (b) any action taken under such proceedings; or  
24 (c) the operation of any applicable acceleration clause.

25 **8 Subsection 94(2) of the *National Credit Code***

26 Omit “makes the request”, substitute “gives the postponement request”.

27 **9 Subsections 94(3) and (4) of the *National Credit Code***

28 Repeal the subsections, substitute:

29 *Enforcement proceedings*

30 (3) If the debtor, mortgagor or guarantor gives the postponement  
31 request, the credit provider must not begin enforcement  
32 proceedings unless:

- 1 (a) the credit provider has given the debtor, mortgagor or  
2 guarantor a notice under subsection (2) in response to the  
3 postponement request; and  
4 (b) the period of 14 days, starting on the day the credit provider  
5 gives the notice under subsection (2), has expired.

6 **Criminal penalty:** 50 penalty units.

7 **Note:** The credit provider must allow the debtor or mortgagor at least 30  
8 days from the date of the default notice to remedy the default—see  
9 section 88. The 14-day period in subsection (3) may end before, at the  
10 same time as, or after the end of the period for remedying the default  
11 specified in the default notice.

12 (4) However, the credit provider may take possession of mortgaged  
13 goods if the credit provider reasonably believes that:

- 14 (a) the debtor or mortgagor has removed or disposed of the  
15 mortgaged goods, or intends to remove or dispose of them,  
16 without the credit provider's permission; or  
17 (b) urgent action is necessary to protect the goods.

18 (5) Subsections (2) and (3) are offences of strict liability.

19 **Note:** For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.  
20

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## Part 2—Remedies for unfair or dishonest conduct by credit service providers

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### *National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009*

5

#### 10 After section 180

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Insert:

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#### **@180A Orders to remedy unfair or dishonest conduct by credit service providers**

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9

(1) The court may make one or more of the orders described in subsection (2) if the court is satisfied that:

10

11

(a) a person (the *defendant*) provided a credit service to a consumer (the *plaintiff*); and

12

13

(b) the defendant engaged in conduct that:

14

(i) was connected with the provision of the service; and

15

(ii) was unfair or dishonest; and

16

(c) the conduct had one or more of the following results:

17

(i) the plaintiff entered a credit contract, consumer lease, mortgage or guarantee that the plaintiff would not have entered apart from the conduct;

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(ii) the plaintiff entered a credit contract, consumer lease, mortgage or guarantee whose terms were different from a credit contract, consumer lease, mortgage or guarantee the plaintiff would have entered apart from the conduct;

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(iii) the plaintiff became liable to pay fees, costs or charges to the defendant or someone else.

25

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(2) The orders are as follows:

27

(a) an order that the defendant take, or refrain from taking, specified action;

28

29

(b) an order that the defendant pay the plaintiff a specified amount;

30

31

(c) an order that a specified amount is not due or owing by the plaintiff to the defendant;

32

33

(d) any other order the court considers appropriate to:

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- 1 (i) redress the unfairness or dishonesty; or  
2 (ii) prevent the defendant from profiting from the plaintiff  
3 by engaging in the conduct;  
4 except an order that affects a credit contract, consumer lease,  
5 mortgage or guarantee to which the conduct related.

6 *Determining whether conduct was unfair or dishonest*

- 7 (3) In determining whether conduct was unfair or dishonest, the court:  
8 (a) must have regard to the extent (if any) to which one or more  
9 of the circumstances described in subsection (4) existed; and  
10 (b) must consider it more likely that the conduct was unfair or  
11 dishonest the more any of those circumstances existed and  
12 the more any of them affected the plaintiff's interests.  
13 This does not limit the matters to which the court may have regard.
- 14 (4) The circumstances are as follows:  
15 (a) the plaintiff was at a special disadvantage in dealing with the  
16 defendant in relation to the transaction involving:  
17 (i) the conduct; and  
18 (ii) a credit contract, consumer lease, mortgage or guarantee  
19 to which the conduct related; and  
20 (iii) any other contract requiring the plaintiff to make  
21 payments for the purposes of which it is reasonable to  
22 expect the plaintiff would or did enter such a credit  
23 contract, consumer lease, mortgage or guarantee;  
24 (b) the plaintiff was a member of a class whose members were  
25 more likely than people who were not members of the class  
26 to be at such a disadvantage;  
27 (c) if the plaintiff was a member of a class referred to in  
28 paragraph (b)—a reasonable person would consider that the  
29 conduct was directed at that class;  
30 (d) the plaintiff was unable, or considered himself or herself  
31 unable, to make:  
32 (i) a credit contract with a credit provider other than the  
33 credit provider to which the conduct related; or  
34 (ii) a consumer lease with a lessor other than the lessor to  
35 which the conduct related; or  
36 (iii) a mortgage with a mortgagee other than the mortgagee  
37 to which the conduct related; or
-

**Schedule 1** Enhancements

**Part 2** Remedies for unfair or dishonest conduct by credit service providers

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- 1 (iv) a guarantee with a beneficiary other than the beneficiary  
2 to which the conduct related;
- 3 (e) the conduct involved a technique that:  
4 (i) should not in good conscience have been used; or  
5 (ii) manipulated the plaintiff;
- 6 (f) the defendant could determine or significantly influence the  
7 terms of a contract covered by subparagraph (a)(ii) or (iii);
- 8 (g) the terms of the transaction described in paragraph (a) were  
9 less favourable to the plaintiff than the terms of a comparable  
10 transaction.

11 *When order may be made*

- 12 (5) The court may make the order only if:  
13 (a) the plaintiff or ASIC (on behalf of the plaintiff) applies for an  
14 order under this section; and  
15 (b) the application is made within 6 years of the day the  
16 defendant first started engaging in the conduct.

17 *Applications for order*

- 18 (6) For the purposes of paragraph (5)(a), ASIC may make an  
19 application on behalf of the plaintiff, but only if the plaintiff has  
20 given consent in writing before the application is made.

21 *Recovery of amount as a debt*

- 22 (7) If the court makes an order that the defendant pay an amount  
23 specified in the order to the plaintiff, the plaintiff may recover the  
24 amount as a debt due to the plaintiff.

25 *When this section does not apply*

- 26 (8) This section does not apply to the provision of credit assistance by  
27 a person who is (or after the provision of the assistance becomes):  
28 (a) a credit provider under the credit contract to which the  
29 assistance relates; or  
30 (b) a lessor under the consumer lease to which the assistance  
31 relates; or  
32 (c) a mortgagee under a mortgage in relation to the credit  
33 contract to which the assistance relates; or



1 (d) a beneficiary of a guarantee in relation to the credit contract  
2 to which the assistance relates.

3 **11 Section 184**

4 Add at the end “or another Act”.  
5

1

2 **Part 3—Representations about eligibility to enter**  
3 **credit contracts, consumer leases etc.**  
4 **without assessing unsuitability**

5 *National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009*

6 **12 Section 125 (paragraph relating to Division 3)**

7 Omit “entering or increasing the credit limit of a credit contract”,  
8 substitute “doing particular things (such as entering a credit contract)”.

9 **13 Division 3 of Part 3-2 (heading)**

10 Repeal the heading, substitute:

11 **Division 3—Obligation to assess unsuitability**

12 **14 Section 128 (heading)**

13 Repeal the heading, substitute:

14 **128 Obligation to assess unsuitability**

15 **15 After paragraph 128(a)**

16 Insert:

17 (aa) ~~represent~~ make an unconditional representation to a  
18 consumer that the licensee considers that the consumer is  
19 eligible to enter a credit contract with the licensee; or

20 **16 After paragraph 128(b)**

21 Insert:

22 ; or (ba) ~~represent~~ make an unconditional representation to a  
23 consumer that the licensee considers that the credit limit of  
24 credit contract between the consumer and the licensee will be  
25 able to be increased;

26 **17 Section 148 (paragraph relating to Division 3)**

27 Omit “entering a consumer lease”, substitute “doing particular things  
28 (such as entering a consumer lease)”.

---

1 **18 Division 3 of Part 3-4 (heading)**

2 Repeal the heading, substitute:

3 **Division 3—Obligation to assess unsuitability**

4 **19 Section 151**

5 Repeal the section, substitute:

6 **151 Obligation to assess unsuitability**

7 A licensee must not:

8 (a) enter a consumer lease with a consumer who will be the  
9 lessee under the lease; or

10 (b) ~~represent~~ make an unconditional representation to a  
11 consumer that the licensee considers that the consumer is  
12 eligible to enter a consumer lease with the licensee;

13 on a day (the *lease day*) unless the licensee has, within 90 days (or  
14 other period prescribed by the regulations) before the lease day:

15 (c) made an assessment that:

16 (i) is in accordance with section 152; and

17 (ii) covers a period in which the lease day occurs; and

18 (d) made the inquiries and verification in accordance with  
19 section 130.

20 Civil penalty: 2,000 penalty units.

21 **20 Section 152**

22 Omit “paragraph 151(a)”, substitute “paragraph 151(c)”.

23 **21 Subsection 153(1)**

24 Omit “paragraph 151(b)”, substitute “paragraph 151(d)”.

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## **Part 4—Prohibition on certain representations and other matters**

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### *National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009*

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#### **22 Section 27 (paragraph relating to Division 3)**

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Omit “, charging fees for unlicensed conduct, and giving misleading information”, substitute “, and charging fees for unlicensed conduct”.

7

8

#### **23 Division 3 of Part 2-1 (heading)**

9

Repeal the heading, substitute:

10

### **Division 3—Other prohibitions relating to the requirement to be licensed**

11

12

#### **24 Section 33**

13

Repeal the section.

14

#### **25 After Part 3-6**

15

Insert:

16

## **Part 3-6A—Miscellaneous rules**

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### **Division 1—Introduction**

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#### **@160A Guide to this Part**

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20

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22

This Part has a number of miscellaneous rules that require responsible lending conduct when engaging in credit activities or particular types of credit activities. Some of these rules apply to a person even if the person is not required to be licensed.

23

24

Division 2 prohibits licensees from making particular representations when providing a credit service to a consumer.

1 Division 3 prohibits a person (whether licensed or not) from giving  
2 false or misleading information in the course of engaging in a  
3 credit activity.

4 [Division 4 may require a credit provider or lessor \(whether](#)  
5 [licensed or not\) to give notice when, and in some cases before,](#)  
6 [giving an employer of a debtor or lessee an authorisation by the](#)  
7 [debtor or lessee to make deductions from amounts payable by the](#)  
8 [employer to the debtor or lessee.](#)

9 **Division 2—Representations**

10 **@160B “Independent”, “impartial” or “unbiased” etc.**

11 (1) A licensee must not, in providing or offering to provide a credit  
12 service to a consumer, use any of the following terms (either alone  
13 or in combination with other words or letters) in a representation to  
14 the consumer about the licensee, the service or the licensee’s  
15 actions in providing the service:

- 16 (a) the word “independent”;  
17 (b) the word “impartial”;  
18 (c) the word “unbiased”;  
19 (d) another term (whether or not in English) that is of similar  
20 import to a word mentioned in paragraph (a), (b) or (c).

21 Civil penalty: 2,000 penalty units.

22 *Defences*

- 23 (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), it is a defence if:  
24 (a) the licensee does not receive any of the following:  
25 (i) commissions (apart from commissions that are rebated  
26 in full to the licensee’s clients);  
27 (ii) other gifts or benefits from a credit provider or a lessor  
28 that may reasonably be expected to influence the  
29 licensee; and  
30 (b) in providing a credit service, the licensee operates free from  
31 direct or indirect restrictions relating to the credit contracts  
32 and consumer leases to which the service relates (except

**Schedule 1** Enhancements

**Part 4** Prohibition on certain representations and other matters

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- 1 restrictions imposed on the licensee by this Act or by an  
2 Australian credit licence); and
- 3 (c) in providing a credit service, the licensee operates without  
4 any conflicts of interest that might:
- 5 (i) arise from the licensee’s associations or relationships  
6 with credit providers and lessors; and
- 7 (ii) reasonably be expected to influence the licensee in  
8 providing the service; and
- 9 (d) neither of the following persons receives any commission,  
10 gift, or benefit, covered by paragraph (a):
- 11 (i) the licensee’s employer (if any);
- 12 (ii) any other person prescribed (whether by reference to a  
13 class of person or otherwise) by the regulations.
- 14 (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), it is a defence if the  
15 representation uses any of the terms in the negative (for example, a  
16 representation that the licensee is not independent).

17 **@160C “Financial counsellor” etc.**

- 18 (1) A licensee must not, in providing or offering to provide a credit  
19 service to a consumer, use any of the following terms (either alone  
20 or in combination with other words or letters) in a representation to  
21 the consumer about the licensee, the service or the licensee’s  
22 actions in providing the service:
- 23 (a) the phrase “financial counsellor”;
- 24 (b) the phrase “financial counselling”;
- 25 (c) another term (whether or not in English) that:
- 26 (i) is of similar import to a phrase mentioned in  
27 paragraph (a) or (b); and
- 28 (ii) is prescribed by the regulations.

29 Civil penalty: 2,000 penalty units.

30 *Defences*

- 31 (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), it is a defence if regulations  
32 made for the purposes of paragraph 110(a) exempt the licensee  
33 from section 29 in relation to a credit activity because the licensee  
34 engages in the activity as part of a financial counselling service.

- 1 (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), it is a defence if:  
2 (a) the licensee is providing, or offering to provide, the credit  
3 service on behalf of another person (the *principal*); and  
4 (b) the licensee is a representative of the principal; and  
5 (c) regulations made for the purposes of paragraph 110(a)  
6 exempt the principal from section 29 in relation to a credit  
7 activity because the principal engages in the activity as part  
8 of a financial counselling service; and  
9 (d) the licensee's actions in providing or offering to provide the  
10 credit service are within the authority of the principal.
- 11 (4) For the purposes of subsection (1), it is a defence if the  
12 representation uses any of the terms in the negative (for example, a  
13 representation that the licensee is not a financial counsellor).

### 14 **Division 3—Giving misleading information**

#### 15 **@160D Prohibition on giving misleading information etc.**

16 *Prohibition on giving misleading information etc.*

- 17 (1) A person (the *giver*) must not, in the course of engaging in a credit  
18 activity, give information or a document to another person if the  
19 giver knows, or is reckless as to whether, the information or  
20 document is:  
21 (a) false in a material particular; or  
22 (b) materially misleading.

23 Civil penalty: 2,000 penalty units.

24 *Offence*

- 25 (2) A person commits an offence if:  
26 (a) the person gives information or a document to another  
27 person; and  
28 (b) the person does so in the course of engaging in a credit  
29 activity; and  
30 (c) the information or document is false in a material particular  
31 or materially misleading.

1 Criminal penalty: 100 penalty units, or 2 years imprisonment, or  
2 both.

3 **Division 4—Giving authorisation for deductions by**  
4 **employer of debtor or lessee**

5 **160E Requirements for giving authorisation to employer**

6 (1) This section applies to a credit provider or lessor giving, or  
7 intending to give, an employer of a debtor or lessee who is party to  
8 a credit contract or consumer lease with the credit provider or  
9 lessor an instrument that:

10 (a) was made by the debtor or lessee; and

11 (b) authorises the employer to:

12 (i) make one or more deductions from one or more  
13 amounts payable by the employer in relation to the  
14 performance of work by the debtor or lessee; and

15 (ii) pay the deductions to the credit provider or lessor.

16 *Credit provider or lessor must give statement to employer*

17 (2) If the credit contract or consumer lease is of a kind prescribed by  
18 the regulations, the credit provider or lessor must give the  
19 employer a statement, in the form prescribed by the regulations for  
20 that kind of contract or lease, with the instrument.

21 Civil penalty: 2,000 penalty units.

22 *Credit provider or lessor must give 7 days' notice to defaulting*  
23 *debtor or lessee*

24 (3) If the debtor or lessee is in default under the credit contract or  
25 consumer lease, the credit provider or lessor must give the debtor  
26 or lessee at least 7 days' notice, in a form prescribed by the  
27 regulations, of the intention of the credit provider or lessor to give  
28 the instrument to the employer.

29 Civil penalty: 2,000 penalty units.

30 (4) To avoid doubt, subsection (3) does not apply if there are not  
31 regulations in force prescribing a form for the purposes of that  
32 subsection.





1

2 **Part 5—Civil remedies for contravention of the**  
3 **National Credit Code**

4 *National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009*

5 **26 Section 124 of the *National Credit Code* (heading)**

6 Repeal the heading, substitute:

7 **124 Civil effect of contraventions**

8 **27 Subsection 124(1) of the *National Credit Code***

9 Omit “(other than one for which a civil effect is specifically provided by  
10 Division 1 or by any other provision of this Code)”.

11 **28 Subsection 124(2) of the *National Credit Code***

12 Repeal the subsection, substitute:

13 (2) An application for the exercise of the court’s powers under this  
14 section may be made by:

- 15 (a) a person affected by the contravention; or  
16 (b) ASIC on behalf of a person affected by the contravention, if  
17 the person has consented in writing to ASIC making the  
18 application; or  
19 (c) ASIC (on its own behalf).  
20

1

2 **Part 6—Miscellaneous amendments**

3 *National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009*

4 **29 Subsection 19(1) of the *National Credit Code***

5 Omit “a contract document”, substitute “a new contract document”.

6 **30 Section 32 of the *National Credit Code***

7 Repeal the section, substitute:

8 **32 Fees or charges in relation to third parties**

9 *When this section applies*

- 10 (1) This section applies if a fee or charge is payable by a debtor to the  
11 credit provider for an amount (the ***third party amount***) payable or  
12 paid by the credit provider to another person, body or agency.

13 *Third party amount ascertainable at time of debtor payment*

- 14 (2) If, when the fee or charge is paid by the debtor to the credit  
15 provider, the third party amount is ascertainable, then the amount  
16 of the fee or charge must not exceed the third party amount.

17 *Third party amount not ascertainable at time of debtor payment*

- 18 (3) If:  
19 (a) when the fee or charge is paid by the debtor to the credit  
20 provider, the third party amount is not ascertainable; and  
21 (b) after the fee or charge is paid, the credit provider ascertains  
22 the third party amount; and  
23 (c) the third party amount is less than the amount of the fee or  
24 charge paid;  
25 then the credit provider must refund or credit the difference to the  
26 debtor.

27 *Determining third party amount*

- 28 (4) The third party amount is to be determined by:
-

- 1 (a) taking into account any discount, rebate or other allowance  
2 that is received or receivable by the credit provider or a  
3 related body corporate (within the meaning of the  
4 *Corporations Act 2001*); and  
5 (b) disregarding any rebate on tax payable by the credit provider  
6 or a related body corporate (within the meaning of that Act).

7 **31 Paragraph 36(1)(c) of the *National Credit Code***

8 Repeal the paragraph, substitute:

- 9 (c) any amounts currently overdue and the dates they became  
10 due;

11 **32 Paragraph 36(1)(d) of the *National Credit Code***

12 Omit “became due”, substitute “becomes due”.

13 **33 Subsection 38(4) of the *National Credit Code***

14 Omit “of receiving the statement of account in which the amount, or  
15 part of that amount, was first shown”, substitute “after the day the  
16 debtor receives the statement of account in which the amount, or part of  
17 that amount, is first shown”.

18 **34 Subsection 38(5) of the *National Credit Code***

19 Omit “after the end of the contract”, substitute “after the day the  
20 contract ends”.

21 **35 Subsection 38(6) of the *National Credit Code***

22 Omit “at least 30 days have elapsed from the time the written  
23 explanation or advice as to agreement was given”, substitute “the period  
24 of 30 days, starting on the day the credit provider gives the written  
25 explanation or advice as to agreement, has expired”.

26 **36 At the end of subsection 38(6) of the *National Credit Code***

27 Add:

28 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

29 **37 Subsection 38(9) of the *National Credit Code***

30 Omit “Subsection (8) is an offence”, substitute “Subsections (6) and (8)  
31 are offences”.

1 **38 Division 6 of Part 2 of the *National Credit Code***

2 Repeal the Division, substitute:

3 **Division 6—Certain transactions not to be treated as new**  
4 **contracts**

5 **40 Changes etc. under contracts**

6 If:

7 (a) there is:

8 (i) a change to an existing credit contract that results in  
9 further credit being provided; or

10 (ii) a deferral or waiver of an amount under an existing  
11 credit contract; or

12 (iii) a postponement relating to an existing credit contract;  
13 and

14 (b) the change, deferral, waiver or postponement is made in  
15 accordance with this Code or the existing credit contract;

16 then the change, deferral, waiver or postponement is not to be  
17 treated as creating a new credit contract for the purposes of this  
18 Code.

19 **39 Subsection 71(1) of the *National Credit Code***

20 Omit “under a credit contract”, substitute “under an existing credit  
21 contract”.

22 **40 Subsection 83(1) of the *National Credit Code* (penalty)**

23 Repeal the penalty.

24 **41 Subsection 83(3) of the *National Credit Code***

25 Omit “after the request”, substitute “after the day the request”.

26 **42 Subsection 83(5) of the *National Credit Code***

27 Repeal the subsection (not including the note), substitute:

28 (5) Subsection (3) is an offence of strict liability.

29 **43 Subsection 87(2) of the *National Credit Code***

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1 Omit “direct debit default notice under this section within 10 business  
2 days”, substitute “notice, complying with this section, within 14 days”.

3 **44 Subsection 87(3) of the *National Credit Code***

4 Omit “direct debit default”.

5 **45 Paragraphs 88(5)(a) and (d) of the *National Credit Code***

6 Omit “believes on reasonable grounds”, substitute “reasonably  
7 believes”.

8 **46 Subsection 88(6) of the *National Credit Code***

9 Omit “believes on reasonable grounds”, substitute “reasonably  
10 believes”.

11 **47 Subsection 89(1) of the *National Credit Code***

12 After “a default notice”, insert “under section 88”.

13 **48 Paragraphs 93(1)(c), (2)(a) and (2)(d) of the *National Credit*  
14 *Code***

15 Omit “believes on reasonable grounds”, substitute “reasonably  
16 believes”.

17 **49 Subsection 95(1) of the *National Credit Code***

18 Omit “The default notice or demand for payment”, substitute “A default  
19 notice under section 88 or a demand for payment under section 90”.

20 **50 Subsection 98(1) of the *National Credit Code***

21 Omit “within 7 days”, substitute “, within 7 days after the day the notice  
22 is given to the mortgagor,”.

23 **51 Section 206 of the *National Credit Code***

24 Repeal the section.  
25

1

2 **Part 7—Technical corrections**

3 ***National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009***

4 **52 Section 129**

5 Omit “128(1)(c)”, substitute “128(c)”.

6 Note: This item fixes an incorrect cross-reference.

7 **53 Subsection 130(1)**

8 Omit “128(1)(d)”, substitute “128(d)”.

9 Note: This item fixes an incorrect cross-reference.

10 **54 Paragraph 181(b)**

11 After “order under”, insert “section”.

12 **55 Subparagraph 88(3)(g)(i) of the *National Credit Code***

13 Omit “or”, substitute “and”.

14 **56 Subsection 127(2) of the *National Credit Code***

15 Omit “*tied continuing credit* contract”, substitute “*tied continuing*  
16 *credit contract*”.

17 **57 Section 129 of the *National Credit Code* (heading)**

18 Repeal the heading, substitute:

19 **129 Right to damages under sale contract against both supplier and**  
20 **linked credit provider**

21 Note: This item removes a reference to a repealed provision.

22 **58 Section 130 of the *National Credit Code* (heading)**

23 Repeal the heading, substitute:

24 **130 Limits on debtor’s right of action against linked credit provider**

25 Note: This item removes a reference to a repealed provision.

1 **59 Section 131 of the *National Credit Code* (heading)**

2 Repeal the heading, substitute:

3 **131 Liability of supplier to linked credit provider**

4 Note: This item removes a reference to a repealed provision.

5 **60 Section 132 of the *National Credit Code* (heading)**

6 Repeal the heading, substitute:

7 **132 Interest may be awarded**

8 Note: This item removes a reference to a repealed provision.

9 **61 Section 133 of the *National Credit Code* (heading)**

10 Repeal the heading, substitute:

11 **133 Subrogation of credit provider**

12 Note: This item removes a reference to a repealed provision.

13 **62 Subsection 204(1) of the *National Credit Code* (definition**  
14 **of *approved external dispute resolution scheme*)**

15 After “has”, insert “the”.

16



1  
2 **Schedule 2—Reverse mortgages**

3 **Part 1—Definitions**

4 **Division 1—Definition of reverse mortgage**

5 *National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009*

6 **1 Subsection 5(1)**

7 Insert:

8 *reverse mortgage* has the same meaning as in section 13A of the  
9 National Credit Code.

10 **2 At the end of Part 1 of the *National Credit Code***

11 Add:

12 **13A Reverse mortgages**

- 13 (1) For the purposes of this Code, an arrangement is a *reverse*  
14 *mortgage* if the arrangement involves a credit contract, except a  
15 bridging finance contract, and a mortgage over a dwelling or land  
16 securing a debtor's obligations under the contract and either:  
17 (a) the conditions in subsections (2) and (3) are met; or  
18 (b) the arrangement is of a kind declared by ASIC under  
19 subsection (4) and is made on or after the commencement of  
20 that declaration.

21 *Conditions*

- 22 (2) The first condition is that the debtor's total liability under the credit  
23 contract or mortgage may exceed (to a limited or unlimited extent)  
24 the maximum amount of credit that may be provided under the  
25 contract without the debtor being obliged to reduce that liability to  
26 ~~less or below than~~ that maximum amount.

27 Note: The debtor's total liability can exceed the maximum amount of credit  
28 because interest and some other fees and charges are not included in  
29 an amount of credit: see subsection 3(2).

- 1 (3) The second condition is that, if the regulations prescribe any  
2 prerequisites for the arrangement to be a reverse mortgage, those  
3 prerequisites are met.

4 *Declarations by ASIC*

- 5 (4) ASIC may by legislative instrument declare specified kinds of  
6 arrangements involving a credit contract and a mortgage over a  
7 dwelling or land securing a debtor's obligations under the contract  
8 to be reverse mortgages.

9 **3 Subsection 204(1) of the *National Credit Code***

10 Insert:

11 *reverse mortgage*: see section 13A.

12 **Division 2—Other definitions**

13 ***National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009***

14 **4 Subsection 5(1)**

15 Insert:

16 *reverse mortgage information statement* means a document  
17 relating to reverse mortgages that complies with the regulations.

18 **5 Subsection 204(1) of the *National Credit Code***

19 Insert:

20 *bridging finance contract*: a credit contract is a *bridging finance*  
21 *contract* if:

- 22 (a) when the contract is made, the debtor:  
23 (i) reasonably expects to receive a lump sum before the  
24 term of the contract ends; and  
25 (ii) intends to discharge the debtor's obligations under the  
26 contract so far as possible with that sum; and  
27 (aa) the term of the contract is 2 years or less; and  
28 (b) the conditions (if any) prescribed by the regulations are met.

29 **6 Subsection 204(1) of the *National Credit Code***

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## **Part 2—Provisions applying to licensees**

3

### *National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009*

4

#### **9 At the end of section 133**

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Add:

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Note: Sections 178 and 179 provide for remedies for anyone who suffers, or is likely to suffer, loss or damage because of a breach of this section.

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For example, if a consumer makes an unsuitable credit contract with a licensee, rather than making a not unsuitable credit contract for a reverse mortgage, a person who suffered, or is likely to suffer, loss as a result may be able to get court orders under section 178 or 179 to put the person in a position like the one they would have been in had the consumer entered into the contract for the reverse mortgage.

14

#### **10 Before Part 3-3**

15

Insert:

16

## **Part 3-2D—Licensees and reverse mortgages**

17

18

### **@133DA Guide to this Part**

19

20

This Part has rules that apply to licensees that provide credit services or are credit providers.

21

22

23

24

Before providing credit assistance, or entering into a credit contract, for a reverse mortgage, licensees must provide projections of the debtor's equity in the property that may be covered by the reverse mortgage.

25

26

Licensees must also make reverse mortgage information statements available on their websites and on request.

27

28

Licensees must not inaccurately use terms like "reverse mortgage" in making representations about credit contracts and mortgages.

1 **@133DB Giving projections of equity before providing credit**  
2 **assistance or entering credit contract**

3 *Requirement to give projections*

- 4 (1) Before a licensee makes a preliminary assessment for the purposes  
5 of paragraph 115(1)(c) or (2)(a), or an assessment for the purposes  
6 of paragraph 128(c), in connection with a credit contract with a  
7 consumer for a reverse mortgage, the licensee must:
- 8 (a) show the consumer in person, or give the consumer in a way  
9 prescribed by the regulations, projections that:
    - 10 (i) relate to the value of the dwelling or land that may  
11 become reverse mortgaged property, and the consumer's  
12 indebtedness, over time if the consumer were to enter  
13 into a contract for a reverse mortgage; and
    - 14 (ii) are made in accordance with the regulations by using a  
15 website approved by ASIC; and
  - 16 (b) give the consumer a printed copy of the projections; and
  - 17 (c) tell the consumer in person the things (if any) that relate to  
18 reverse mortgages and are prescribed by the regulations; and
  - 19 (d) give the consumer a reverse mortgage information statement.

20 Civil penalty: 2,000 penalty units.

21 *Offence*

- 22 (2) A person commits an offence if:  
23 (a) the person is subject to a requirement under subsection (1);  
24 and  
25 (b) the person engages in conduct; and  
26 (c) the person's conduct breaches the requirement.

27 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

28 *Defences for not giving projections*

- 29 (3) For the purposes of paragraphs (1)(a) and (b), and of subsection (2)  
30 so far as it relates to either of those paragraphs, it is a defence if the  
31 licensee reasonably believes that:  
32 (a) another person has:

- 1 (i) shown the consumer in person projections described in  
2 paragraph (1)(a); and  
3 (ii) given the consumer a printed copy of the projections;  
4 and  
5 (b) the projections are the same, or substantially the same, as  
6 those paragraph (1)(a) requires the licensee to show the  
7 consumer.

8 Note: For the purposes of subsection (2), a defendant bears an evidential  
9 burden in relation to the matter in subsection (3) (see subsection  
10 13.3(3) of the *Criminal Code*).

- 11 (4) For the purposes of paragraphs (1)(a) and (b), and of subsection (2)  
12 so far as it relates to either of those paragraphs, it is a defence if the  
13 circumstances prescribed by the regulations exist.

14 Note: For the purposes of subsection (2), a defendant bears an evidential  
15 burden in relation to the matter in subsection (4) (see subsection  
16 13.3(3) of the *Criminal Code*).

17 *Defence for not giving reverse mortgage information statement*

- 18 (5) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(d), and of subsection (2) so far  
19 as it relates to that paragraph, it is a defence if the licensee  
20 reasonably believes that another person has given the consumer a  
21 reverse mortgage information statement in the last 90 days.

22 Note: For the purposes of subsection (2), a defendant bears an evidential  
23 burden in relation to the matter in subsection (5) (see subsection  
24 13.3(3) of the *Criminal Code*).

25 **@133DC Making reverse mortgage information statement available**  
26 **on website of credit provider or credit assistance provider**

27 *When this section applies*

- 28 (1) This section applies if a licensee:  
29 (a) is:  
30 (i) a person who provides, or holds himself or herself out  
31 as able to provide, credit assistance relating to credit  
32 contracts for reverse mortgages; or  
33 (ii) a credit provider under one or more credit contracts for  
34 a reverse mortgages; and  
35 (b) has a website that provides information about such contracts.



1                                    *Requirement*

2                    (2) The licensee must, in accordance with any requirements prescribed  
3                    by the regulations, give the consumer a reverse mortgage  
4                    information statement.

5                    Civil penalty:            2,000 penalty units.

6                                    *Offence*

7                    (3) A person commits an offence if:  
8                           (a) the person is subject to a requirement under subsection (2);  
9                                       and  
10                           (b) the person engages in conduct; and  
11                           (c) the conduct contravenes the requirement.

12                    Criminal penalty:    50 penalty units.

13                                    *Defences*

14                    (4) For the purposes of subsections (2) and (3), it is a defence if:  
15                           (a) the licensee has given the consumer, or reasonably believes  
16                                       that someone else has given the consumer, a reverse  
17                                       mortgage information statement; or  
18                           (b) the licensee:  
19                                       (i) is a credit provider under one or more credit contracts  
20                                       for reverse mortgages; and  
21                                       (ii) reasonably believes that the consumer would not be  
22                                       eligible to make a credit contract with the licensee for a  
23                                       reverse mortgage; or  
24                           (c) there exist circumstances prescribed by regulations as  
25                                       circumstances in which the licensee is not required to give  
26                                       the consumer a reverse mortgage information statement.

27                    Note:            For the purposes of subsection (3), a defendant bears an evidential  
28                    burden in relation to the matter in subsection (4) (see subsection  
29                    13.3(3) of the *Criminal Code*).



1 **@133DE Representations that use the term “reverse mortgage” etc.**

2 *Credit service providers*

3 (1) A licensee must not, in providing or offering to provide a credit  
4 service to a consumer, use either of the following terms (either  
5 alone or in combination with other words or letters) in a  
6 representation to the consumer about an actual or proposed credit  
7 contract or mortgage:

- 8 (a) the phrase “reverse mortgage”;  
9 (b) another term (whether or not in English) of similar import to  
10 the phrase “reverse mortgage”.

11 Civil penalty: 2,000 penalty units.

12 *Credit providers*

13 (2) A licensee that is a credit provider must not use either of the  
14 following terms (either alone or in combination with other words  
15 or letters) in a representation to a consumer about an actual or  
16 proposed credit contract or mortgage:

- 17 (a) the phrase “reverse mortgage”;  
18 (b) another term (whether or not in English) of similar import to  
19 the phrase “reverse mortgage”.

20 Civil penalty: 2,000 penalty units.

21 *Defence*

22 (3) For the purposes of subsections (1) and (2), it is a defence if:

- 23 (a) the representation truly represents that a credit contract:  
24 (i) is or will be a credit contract for a reverse mortgage; or  
25 (ii) is not or will not be a credit contract for a reverse  
26 mortgage; or  
27 (b) the representation truly represents that a mortgage:  
28 (i) is or will be part of a reverse mortgage; or  
29 (ii) is not or will not be part of a reverse mortgage.

30 **11 At the end of section 179**

31 Add:

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*Presumption in favour of certain orders*

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- (6) Subsection (7) applies if:
- (a) the defendant is a credit provider who has contravened section 133 by entering into, or increasing the credit limit of, a credit contract (the *illegal contract*) that is not a credit contract for a reverse mortgage; and
  - (b) the debtor's obligations under the illegal contract are secured by a mortgage over the debtor's principal place of residence; and
  - (c) the court is satisfied that, at any time in the period in which an assessment needed to be made to comply with section 128 in relation to the illegal contract:
    - (i) there was a credit provider (whether the defendant or not) offering credit through a reverse mortgage (whether or not the credit provider actually made such an offer to the debtor); and
    - (ii) the debtor would have been eligible to enter into a credit contract for the reverse mortgage; and
    - (iii) the credit contract for the reverse mortgage would not have been unsuitable for the debtor under section 133; and
  - (d) the plaintiff, or ASIC on behalf of the plaintiff, applies for an order under this section to let the plaintiff reside in the place to prevent or reduce loss or damage suffered or likely to be suffered by the plaintiff vacating the place.
- (7) The court must consider the order appropriate to prevent or reduce the loss or damage and make the order unless the court is satisfied that the order would adversely affect a person other than the debtor and the defendant.

1

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## **Part 3—Provisions applying to credit providers generally**

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### *National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009*

5

#### **12 After subsection 17(15) of the *National Credit Code***

6

Insert:

7

*Provisions for person other than debtor to occupy reverse mortgaged property*

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9

(15A) If the credit contract for a reverse mortgage is to make provision for a person other than the debtor to occupy the reverse mortgaged property, the contract document must contain provisions that have the following effect (whether or not the document also contains other provisions relating to such occupation by such a person):

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(a) the debtor may at any time (before, when or after the contract is made):

(i) nominate to the credit provider a person who is to be allowed to occupy the property (whether alone or with other persons); and

(ii) revoke such a nomination by notice given to the credit provider;

(b) while a nomination described in paragraph (a) is in force, the nominated person has the same rights (against the credit provider) to occupy the property as the debtor has or would have apart from the death of the debtor or vacation of the property by the debtor.

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Note: Other provisions contained in the contract document may, for example, limit the kinds of persons whom the debtor may nominate to the credit provider as persons who are to be allowed to occupy the property.

37

#### **13 After section 18 of the *National Credit Code***

38

Insert:

1       **@18A Provisions that must not be included in credit contract for**  
2                               **reverse mortgage**

- 3               (1) A credit provider must not enter into a credit contract for a reverse  
4               mortgage that provides a basis for beginning enforcement  
5               proceedings relating to the contract for an event described in  
6               subsection (3).
- 7               (2) A credit provider must not agree to change, or unilaterally change,  
8               a credit contract for a reverse mortgage so that it provides a basis  
9               for beginning enforcement proceedings relating to the contract for  
10              an event described in subsection (3).
- 11             (3) For the purposes of subsections (1) and (2), the events are as  
12             follows:
- 13               (a) the debtor failing to inform the credit provider that another  
14               person occupies the reverse mortgaged property;
- 15               (b) the debtor failing, when the debtor occupies the reverse  
16               mortgaged property, to give the credit provider evidence that  
17               the debtor, or another person nominated by the debtor to the  
18               credit provider, occupies or occupied the reverse mortgaged  
19               property;
- 20               (c) the debtor leaving the reverse mortgaged property  
21               unoccupied while it is the debtor's principal place of  
22               residence;
- 23               (d) the debtor failing to pay a cost to a person other than the  
24               credit provider within 3 years after the payment became due;
- 25               (e) the debtor failing to comply with a provision of the credit  
26               contract if the contract does not make it clear how the debtor  
27               is to comply with the provision;
- 28               (f) the debtor breaching another credit contract with the credit  
29               provider;
- 30               (g) an event that involves an act or omission by the debtor and is  
31               prescribed by the regulations.

32       **@18B Disclosure if credit contract for reverse mortgage does not**  
33                               **protect tenancy of person other than debtor**

- 34             (1) This section applies if a proposed credit contract for a reverse  
35             mortgage does not include a provision (a *tenancy protection*



1 **14 At the end of section 22 of the *National Credit Code***

2 Add:

- 3 (3) Subsection (1) does not apply to a contravention of a requirement  
4 of section @18B.

5 **15 At the end of section 26 of the *National Credit Code***

6 Add:

- 7 (6) A credit contract for a reverse mortgage may not prohibit an early  
8 payment that:  
9 (a) is made in the circumstances described in paragraph  
10 @86A(1)(a); and  
11 (b) is of the amount described in paragraph @86A(1)(b).

12 **16 After paragraph 33(2)(a) of the *National Credit Code***

13 Insert:

- 14 (aa) in the case of a continuing credit contract for a reverse  
15 mortgage—12 months; or

16 **17 After paragraph 33(2)(b) of the *National Credit Code***

17 Insert:

- 18 (ba) in the case of a reverse mortgage not involving a continuing  
19 credit contract—12 months; or

20 **18 After section 67 of the *National Credit Code***

21 Insert:

22 **@67A Changes to tenancy protection in credit contracts for reverse**  
23 **mortgages**

24 A purported change to a credit contract for a reverse mortgage that  
25 makes provision for a person other than the debtor to occupy the  
26 reverse mortgaged property is void so far as the change purports to:

- 27 (a) remove a provision required by subsection 17(15A) to be  
28 contained in the contract document; or  
29 (b) vary the contract so as to limit:  
30 (i) the ability of the debtor to nominate to the credit  
31 provider a person who is to be allowed to occupy the
-

- 1 reverse mortgaged property (whether alone or with other  
2 persons); or  
3 (ii) the rights of a person nominated by the debtor to the  
4 credit provider to occupy the property.

5 **19 Division 1 of Part 5 of the *National Credit Code* (heading)**

6 Repeal the heading, substitute:

7 **Division 1—Ending of credit contract by debtor etc.**

8 **Subdivision A—Paying out contract etc.**

9 **20 After section 86 of the *National Credit Code***

10 Insert:

11 **Subdivision B—Ending of reverse mortgage by credit provider**  
12 **receiving value of reverse mortgaged property**

13 **@86A Application of this Subdivision**

- 14 (1) This Subdivision applies in relation to a credit contract for a  
15 reverse mortgage and a mortgage securing the debtor's obligations  
16 under the contract if:  
17 (a) the debtor's accrued liability (whether or not due and  
18 payable) under the contract is more than the amount (the  
19 ***adjusted market value***) worked out under subsection (2) for  
20 the reverse mortgaged property; and  
21 (b) the credit provider receives an amount at least equal to the  
22 adjusted market value for the reverse mortgaged property  
23 either:  
24 (i) as a payment accepted from the debtor under the credit  
25 contract; or  
26 (ii) as proceeds of the sale by the credit provider of the  
27 reverse mortgaged property.
- 28 (2) The adjusted market value for the reverse mortgaged property is  
29 the amount worked out by:  
30 (a) working out the market value of the property in accordance  
31 with the regulations (if any); and

**Schedule 2** Reverse mortgages

**Part 3** Provisions applying to credit providers generally

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- 1 (b) adjusting that value in accordance with the regulations (if  
2 any).  
3 Regulations for the purposes of paragraph (b) may prescribe  
4 different adjustments to be made in different circumstances.

5 **@86B Discharge of debtor's obligations under credit contract and**  
6 **discharge of mortgage**

- 7 (1) The debtor's obligations under the credit contract are discharged  
8 by force of this subsection.  
9 (2) The mortgage securing those obligations is discharged by force of  
10 this subsection.

11 Note: This section does not apply in some cases: see section @86E.

12 **@86C Credit provider must pay debtor excess of receipt over**  
13 **adjusted market value for reverse mortgaged property**

14 If the amount received by the credit provider exceeds the adjusted  
15 market value for the reverse mortgaged property, the credit  
16 provider must pay the excess to the debtor.

17 Note 1: If the credit provider contravenes this requirement, the court may  
18 order the credit provider to compensate anyone affected by the  
19 contravention: see section 124.

20 Note 2: This section does not apply in some cases: see section @86E.

21 **@86D Credit provider must not demand or accept further payments**

- 22 (1) The credit provider must not:  
23 (a) purport to require payment under the credit contract; or  
24 (b) accept a payment purportedly under the credit contract.

25 Note 1: If the credit provider contravenes this requirement, the court may  
26 order the credit provider to compensate anyone affected by the  
27 contravention: see section 124.

28 Note 2: This section does not apply in some cases: see section @86E.

- 29 (2) To avoid doubt, subsection (1) does not apply to the payment (if  
30 any) that is described in subparagraph @86A(1)(b)(i) and caused  
31 this Subdivision to apply.



1 **@86E Cases in which sections @86B, @86C and @86D do not apply**

2 Sections @86B, @86C and @86D do not apply if:

3 ~~(a) the market value of the reverse mortgaged property was~~  
4 ~~reduced by deliberate damage to the property caused by the~~  
5 ~~debtor or a person who occupied the property with the~~  
6 ~~debtor's consent; or~~

7 (b) the debtor engaged in fraud, or made a misrepresentation,  
8 relating to the reverse mortgage before, at or after the time  
9 the credit contract was made; or

10 (c) circumstances prescribed by the regulations exist.

11 **@86F Relationship between this Subdivision and other provisions**

12 This Subdivision does not limit any of the other provisions of this  
13 Division.

14 **Subdivision C—Notice of first direct debit default**

15 **21 Subsections 88(1) and (2) of the *National Credit Code***

16 Repeal the subsections, substitute:

17 *Enforcement of credit contract*

18 (1) A credit provider must not begin enforcement proceedings against  
19 a debtor in relation to a credit contract unless:

- 20 (a) the debtor is in default under the credit contract; and  
21 (b) the credit provider has given the debtor, and any guarantor, a  
22 default notice, complying with this section, allowing the  
23 debtor a period of at least 30 days from the date of the notice  
24 to remedy the default; and  
25 (c) the default has not been remedied within that period; and  
26 (d) if the credit contract is for a reverse mortgage, the credit  
27 provider has spoken to one of the following persons by  
28 telephone or in person in that period and has thus both  
29 confirmed that the debtor received the default notice and  
30 informed the person of the consequences of failure to remedy  
31 the default, or has made reasonable efforts to do so:  
32 (i) the debtor;  
33 (ii) a practising lawyer representing the debtor;
-

**Schedule 2** Reverse mortgages

**Part 3** Provisions applying to credit providers generally

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1 (iii) a person with a power of attorney relating to the  
2 debtor's financial affairs.

3 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

4 Note: If a debtor or guarantor has given a credit provider a hardship notice  
5 or a postponement request there may be extra requirements that the  
6 credit provider must comply with before beginning enforcement  
7 proceedings: see sections 89A and 94.

8 *Enforcement of mortgage*

9 (2) A credit provider must not begin enforcement proceedings against  
10 a mortgagor to recover payment of money due or take possession  
11 of, sell, appoint a receiver for or foreclose in relation to property  
12 subject to a mortgage, unless:

- 13 (a) the mortgage is in default under the mortgage; and  
14 (b) the credit provider has given the mortgagor a default notice,  
15 complying with this section, allowing the mortgagor a period  
16 of at least 30 days from the date of the notice to remedy the  
17 default; and  
18 (c) the default has not been remedied within that period.  
19 (d) if the mortgage secures an obligation under a credit contract  
20 for a reverse mortgage, the credit provider has spoken to one  
21 of the following persons by telephone or in person in that  
22 period and has thus both confirmed that the mortgagor  
23 received the default notice and informed the person of the  
24 consequences of failure to remedy the default, or has made  
25 reasonable efforts to do so:  
26 (i) the mortgagor;  
27 (ii) a practising lawyer representing the mortgagor;  
28 (iii) a person with a power of attorney relating to the  
29 mortgagor's financial affairs.

30 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

31 Note: If a mortgagor has given a credit provider a postponement request  
32 there may be extra requirements that the credit provider must comply  
33 with before beginning enforcement proceedings: see section 94.

34 **22 After subsection 88(7) of the *National Credit Code***

35 Insert:

---

1 *Some defaults are not a basis for a default notice*

2 (7A) So far as a notice purporting to be a default notice relates to an  
3 alleged default under a credit contract for a reverse mortgage that  
4 is an event described in subsection @18A(3), the notice is not a  
5 default notice for the purposes of any of the following provisions:

- 6 (a) subsections (1) and (2) of this section;  
7 (b) section 93.

8 Note: This has the effect that:

- 9 (a) if the credit provider begins enforcement proceedings relating to  
10 the alleged default the credit provider will contravene  
11 subsection (1) or (2) of this section (unless subsection (5) of this  
12 section applies); and  
13 (b) section 93 will affect the operation of an acceleration clause on  
14 the basis of the alleged default.

15 (7B) To avoid doubt, subsection (7A) does not affect the status of the  
16 notice as a default notice for the purposes of section 89, 94 or 95.

17 **23 At the end of Division 2 of Part 5 of the *National Credit***  
18 ***Code***

19 Add:

20 **@93A Extra requirements for enforcing reverse mortgage if**  
21 **debtor's liability exceeded value of reverse mortgaged**  
22 **property**

- 23 (1) This section applies in relation to a credit contract for a reverse  
24 mortgage and a mortgage securing the debtor's obligations under  
25 the contract if:  
26 (a) Subdivision B of Division 1 applies in relation to the contract  
27 and the mortgage (see section @86A); and  
28 (b) just before the amount was received by the credit provider as  
29 described in paragraph @86A(1)(b), the debtor's accrued  
30 liability described in paragraph @86A(1)(a) exceeded that  
31 amount; and  
32 (c) one or more of the conditions in section @86E are met (so  
33 that sections @86B, @86C and @86D do not apply).
- 34 (2) If section 88 requires the credit provider to give the debtor or  
35 mortgagor a default notice before beginning enforcement

1 proceedings to recover any of the excess, the credit provider must  
2 not begin them unless:

- 3 (a) the default notice given to the debtor or mortgagor specifies:  
4 (i) the amount received by the credit provider; and  
5 (ii) the debtor's accrued liability just before that amount  
6 was received; and  
7 (iii) the conditions in section @86E that are met; and  
8 (b) if the credit provider knows of a practising lawyer acting for  
9 the debtor or mortgagor and the credit provider gave the  
10 debtor or mortgagor the default notice by means other than  
11 giving it to the lawyer—the credit provider has given the  
12 lawyer a copy of the default notice at the same time as, or as  
13 soon as practicable after, giving the debtor or mortgagor the  
14 notice.

15 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

16 **24 After paragraph 111(1)(h) of the *National Credit Code***

17 Insert:

- 18 (ha) subsection 17(15A);

19 **25 After paragraph 111(2)(e) of the *National Credit Code***

20 Insert:

- 21 (ea) subsection 17(15A);

22 **26 After section 185 of the *National Credit Code***

23 Insert:

24 **@185A Records of nominations of persons to occupy reverse**  
25 **mortgaged properties**

26 (1) A credit provider under a credit contract for a reverse mortgage  
27 that provides for the debtor to nominate to the credit provider a  
28 person who is to be allowed to occupy the reverse mortgaged  
29 property, and to revoke such a nomination, must keep in  
30 accordance with the regulations a record of any such nominations  
31 and revocations.

32 (2) A person commits an offence if:

- 1 (a) the person is subject to a requirement under subsection (1);  
2 and  
3 (b) the person engages in conduct; and  
4 (c) the person's conduct contravenes the requirement.
- 5 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.  
6

1  
2  
3

## Schedule 3—Small amount credit contracts

### *National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009*

#### 1 Subsection 5(1)

6

Insert:

7

*small amount credit contract*: a credit contract is a *small amount credit contract* if:

8

9

(a) the contract is not a continuing credit contract; and

10

(b) the credit provider under the contract is not an ADI; and

11

(c) the debtor's obligations under the contract are not secured by a mortgage; and

12

13

(d) the credit limit of the contract is \$2,000 (or such other amount as is prescribed by the regulations) or less; and

14

15

(e) the term of the contract is 2 years (or such other number of years as is prescribed by the regulations) or less; and

16

17

(f) the contract meets any other requirements prescribed by the regulations.

18

#### 2 At the end of section 111

19

Add:

21

Division 7 imposes requirements in relation to the website of a licensee who provides credit assistance in relation to small amount credit contracts. It also restricts a licensee from providing credit assistance to a consumer who is a debtor under a small amount credit contract.

22

23

24

25

#### 3 At the end of Part 3-1

26

Add:

27

1 **Division 7—Small amount credit contracts**

2 **124A Licensee’s website must comply with requirements prescribed**  
3 **by the regulations**

4 *Requirement*

- 5 (1) If a licensee has a website that represents that the licensee  
6 provides, or is able to provide, credit assistance to consumers in  
7 relation to small amount credit contracts, the licensee must ensure  
8 that the website complies with the requirements prescribed by the  
9 regulations.

10 Civil penalty: 2,000 penalty units.

11 *Offence*

- 12 (2) A person commits an offence if:  
13 (a) the person is subject to a requirement under subsection (1);  
14 and  
15 (b) the person engages in conduct; and  
16 (c) the conduct contravenes the requirement.

17 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

18 **124B Prohibition on suggesting, or assisting with, small amount**  
19 **credit contracts**

20 *Prohibition*

- 21 (1) A licensee must not provide credit assistance to a consumer by  
22 suggesting that the consumer apply, or assisting the consumer to  
23 apply, for a small amount credit contract with a particular credit  
24 provider if the licensee knows, or is reckless as to whether, the  
25 consumer is a debtor under another small amount credit contract.

26 Civil penalty: 2,000 penalty units.

27 *Offence*

- 28 (2) A licensee commits an offence if:

- 1 (a) the licensee provides credit assistance to a consumer by  
2 suggesting that the consumer apply, or assisting the consumer  
3 to apply, for a small amount credit contract with a particular  
4 credit provider; and  
5 (b) the consumer is a debtor under another small amount credit  
6 contract.

7 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

- 8 (3) For the purposes of subsections (1) and (2), it is a defence if the  
9 licensee reasonably believes that the consumer is not a debtor  
10 under another small amount credit contract.

11 Note: For the purposes of subsection (2), a defendant bears an evidential  
12 burden in relation to the matter in subsection (3) (see subsection  
13 13.3(3) of the *Criminal Code*).

#### 14 **124C Prohibition on suggesting, or assisting with, credit limit** 15 **increases**

##### 16 *Prohibition*

- 17 (1) A licensee must not provide credit assistance to a consumer who is  
18 a debtor under a small amount credit contract by suggesting that  
19 the consumer apply, or assisting the consumer to apply, for an  
20 increase to the credit limit of the contract.

21 Civil penalty: 2,000 penalty units.

##### 22 *Offence*

- 23 (2) A person commits an offence if:  
24 (a) the person is subject to a requirement under subsection (1);  
25 and  
26 (b) the person engages in conduct; and  
27 (c) the conduct contravenes the requirement.

28 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

#### 29 **4 After Part 3-2B**

30 Insert:



1 **Part 3-2C—Licensees that are credit providers**  
2 **under credit contracts: additional rules**  
3 **relating to small amount credit contracts**

4 **Division 1—Introduction**

5 **133C Guide to this Part**

6 This Part has rules that apply to licensees that are credit providers  
7 under small amount credit contracts. It applies in addition to the  
8 general rules in Part 3-2.

9 Division 2 imposes requirements in relation to the websites of  
10 credit providers. It also restricts credit providers from entering into,  
11 or increasing the credit limit of, small amount credit contracts.

12 **Division 2—Small amount credit contracts**

13 **133CA Credit provider’s website must comply with requirements**  
14 **prescribed by the regulations**

15 *Requirement*

- 16 (1) If a licensee has a website that can be used by a consumer to apply  
17 for, or make an inquiry about, a small amount credit contract under  
18 which the licensee would be the credit provider, the licensee must  
19 ensure that the website complies with the requirements prescribed  
20 by the regulations.

21 Civil penalty: 2,000 penalty units.

22 *Offence*

- 23 (2) A person commits an offence if:  
24 (a) the person is subject to a requirement under subsection (1);  
25 and  
26 (b) the person engages in conduct; and  
27 (c) the conduct contravenes the requirement.

1 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

2 **133CB Credit providers must not enter into small amount credit**  
3 **contracts in certain circumstances**

4 *Prohibition*

5 (1) A licensee must not enter into, or offer to enter into, a small  
6 amount credit contract with a consumer who will be a debtor under  
7 the contract if the licensee knows, or is reckless as to whether, the  
8 consumer is a debtor under another small amount credit contract.

9 Civil penalty: 2,000 penalty units.

10 *Offence*

11 (2) A licensee commits an offence if:  
12 (a) the licensee enters into, or offers to enter into, a small amount  
13 credit contract with a consumer; and  
14 (b) the consumer is, or will be, a debtor under that contract; and  
15 (c) the consumer is a debtor under another small amount credit  
16 contract.

17 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

18 (3) For the purposes of subsections (1) and (2), it is a defence if the  
19 licensee reasonably believes that the consumer is not a debtor  
20 under another small amount credit contract.

21 Note: For the purposes of subsection (2), a defendant bears an evidential  
22 burden in relation to the matter in subsection (3) (see subsection  
23 13.3(3) of the *Criminal Code*).

24 **133CC Credit providers must not refinance credit provided under**  
25 **small amount credit contracts**

26 *Prohibition*

27 (1) A licensee must not enter into, or offer to enter into, a small  
28 amount credit contract with a consumer who will be a debtor under  
29 the contract if some or all of the credit provided under the contract  
30 is to refinance some or all of the credit provided to the consumer  
31 under another small amount credit contract.

1 Civil penalty: 2,000 penalty units.

2 *Offence*

- 3 (2) A person commits an offence if:  
4 (a) the person is subject to a requirement under subsection (1);  
5 and  
6 (b) the person engages in conduct; and  
7 (c) the conduct contravenes the requirement.

8 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

- 9 (3) For the purposes of subsections (1) and (2), it is a defence if the  
10 licensee reasonably believes that none of the credit provided under  
11 the small amount [credit](#) contract is to refinance any of the credit  
12 provided to the consumer under another small amount credit  
13 contract.

14 Note: For the purposes of subsection (2), a defendant bears an evidential  
15 burden in relation to the matter in subsection (3) (see subsection  
16 13.3(3) of the *Criminal Code*).

17 **133CD Credit providers must not increase the credit limit of small**  
18 **amount credit contracts**

19 *Prohibition*

- 20 (1) A licensee who is a credit provider under a small amount credit  
21 contract must not increase the credit limit of the contract.

22 Civil penalty: 2,000 penalty units.

23 *Offence*

- 24 (2) A person commits an offence if:  
25 (a) the person is subject to a requirement under subsection (1);  
26 and  
27 (b) the person engages in conduct; and  
28 (c) the conduct contravenes the requirement.

29 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

30 **5 Paragraph 180(1)(b)**

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- 1                    Repeal the paragraph, substitute:  
2                    (b) the engaging in the activity contravenes any of the following:  
3                    (i) section 29 (which requires the holding of a licence);  
4                    (ii) section 124B or 124C (which deal with credit assistance  
5                    in relation to small amount credit contracts);  
6                    (iii) section 133CB, 133CC or 133CD (which deal with  
7                    entering into small amount credit contracts etc.);  
8

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1  
2 **Schedule 4—Caps on costs etc. for credit**  
3 **contracts**  
4

5 *National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009*

6 **1 Subsections 17(4) to (6) of the *National Credit Code***

7 Omit “The contract”, substitute “In the case of a credit contract other  
8 than a small amount credit contract, the contract”.

9 **2 Section 23 of the *National Credit Code* (heading)**

10 Repeal the heading, substitute:

11 **23 Prohibited monetary obligations—general**

12 **3 Subsection 23(1) of the *National Credit Code***

13 After “credit contract”, insert “(other than a small amount credit  
14 contract)”.

15 **4 After section 23 of the *National Credit Code***

16 Insert:

17 **23A Prohibited monetary obligations—small amount credit**  
18 **contracts**

- 19 (1) A small amount credit contract must not impose a monetary  
20 liability on the debtor:  
21 (a) in respect of an interest charge (including a default rate of  
22 interest) under the contract; or  
23 (b) in respect of a fee or charge prohibited by this Code; or  
24 (c) in respect of an amount of a fee or charge exceeding the  
25 amount that may be charged consistently with this Code.
- 26 (2) If a provision of a small amount credit contract imposes a  
27 monetary liability prohibited by subsection (1) then:  
28 (a) each provision (the *void provisions*) of the contract that  
29 imposes a monetary liability of a kind referred to in that  
30 subsection (whether or not the liability is imposed

- 1 consistently with this Code) is void to the extent that the  
2 provision relates to the liability; and  
3 (b) the debtor may recover as a debt due to the debtor any  
4 amount paid to the credit provider under the void provisions  
5 to the extent that the amount relates to the liability.

6 **5 Section 24 of the *National Credit Code* (heading)**

7 Repeal the heading, substitute:

8 **24 Offences related to prohibited monetary obligations—credit**  
9 **providers**

10 **6 After subsection 24(1) of the *National Credit Code***

11 Insert:

- 12 (1A) A credit provider must not:  
13 (a) enter into a small amount credit contract on terms imposing a  
14 monetary liability prohibited by subsection 23A(1); or  
15 (b) require or accept payment of an amount in respect of a  
16 monetary liability that cannot be imposed consistently with  
17 this Code.

18 Criminal penalty: 100 penalty units.

19 **7 Subsection 24(2) of the *National Credit Code***

20 Omit “Subsection (1) is an offence”, substitute “Subsections (1) and  
21 (1A) are offences”.

22 **8 After section 24 of the *National Credit Code***

23 Insert:

24 **24A Offences related to prohibited monetary obligations—credit**  
25 **assistance providers**

- 26 (1) A person must not provide credit assistance to a consumer by:  
27 (a) suggesting that the consumer apply for a particular small  
28 amount credit contract with a particular credit provider; or  
29 (b) assisting the consumer to apply for a particular small amount  
30 credit contract with a particular credit provider;

1 if the person knows, or is reckless as to whether, the contract will  
2 contravene subsection 23A(1).

3 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

4 (2) If a person provides credit assistance to a consumer that is  
5 prohibited by subsection (1):

6 (a) the consumer is not liable (and is taken never to have been  
7 liable) to pay any fees or charges to the person in relation to:

8 (i) the credit assistance; or

9 (ii) any other services provided by the person in connection  
10 with the credit assistance; and

11 (b) the consumer may recover as a debt due to the consumer the  
12 amount of any such fees or charges paid by the consumer to  
13 the person.

14 **9 After section 27 of the *National Credit Code***

15 Insert:

16 **27A Application of this Division**

17 This Division does not apply to a small amount credit contract.

18 **10 Section 31 of the *National Credit Code***

19 Before “The regulations”, insert “(1)”.

20 **11 At the end of section 31 of the *National Credit Code***

21 Add:

22 (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a small amount credit contract.

23 **12 After section 31 of the *National Credit Code***

24 Insert:

25 **31A Restrictions on fees and charges for small amount credit  
26 contracts**

27 (1) A small amount credit contract must not impose or provide for fees  
28 and charges if the fees and charges are not of the following kind:

29 (a) a fee or charge (a *permitted establishment fee*) that reflects  
30 the credit provider’s reasonable costs of determining the

---

- 1 application for credit and the initial administrative costs of  
2 providing the credit under the contract;
- 3 (b) a fee or charge (a *permitted monthly fee*) that is payable on a  
4 monthly basis starting on the day the contract is entered into;
- 5 (c) a fee or charge that is payable in the event of a default in  
6 payment under the contract;
- 7 (d) a government fee, charge or duty payable in relation to the  
8 contract.

9 Note: See section 39B for the maximum amount that may be recovered by  
10 the credit provider if there is a default in payment under the contract.

11 *Maximum amount of permitted establishment fee*

- 12 (2) The amount of a permitted establishment fee that may be imposed  
13 or provided for under a small amount credit contract must not  
14 exceed ~~40~~20% of the adjusted credit amount in relation to the  
15 contract.

16 *Maximum amount of permitted monthly fee*

- 17 (3) The amount of a permitted monthly fee that may be imposed or  
18 provided for under a small amount credit contract must not exceed  
19 ~~42~~2% of the adjusted credit amount in relation to the contract.

20 *Review*

- 21 (4) The Minister must cause an independent review of the operation of  
22 this section to be undertaken as soon as practicable after the end of  
23 the period of 2 years after the commencement of this section.

24 **13 After Division 4 of Part 2 of the *National Credit Code***

25 Insert:

26 **Division 4A—Annual cost rate of certain credit contracts**

27 **32A Prohibitions relating to credit contracts if the annual cost rate**  
28 **exceeds 48%**

29 *Entering into a credit contract etc.*

- 30 (1) A credit provider must not enter into a credit contract if the annual  
31 cost rate of the contract exceeds 48%.



1 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

2 (1A) A person must not be a credit provider under a credit contract if the  
3 annual cost rate of the contract exceeds 48% at any time.

4 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

5 *Provision of credit assistance*

- 6 (2) A person must not provide credit assistance to a consumer by  
7 suggesting that the consumer apply, or assisting the consumer to  
8 apply, for a particular credit contract with a particular credit  
9 provider if the person knows, or is reckless as to whether, the  
10 annual cost rate of the contract exceeds 48%.

11 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

- 12 (3) If a person provides credit assistance to a consumer that is  
13 prohibited by subsection (2):  
14 (a) the consumer is not liable (and is taken never to have been  
15 liable) to pay any fees or charges to the person in relation to:  
16 (i) the credit assistance; or  
17 (ii) any other services provided by the person in connection  
18 with the credit assistance; and  
19 (b) the consumer may recover as a debt due to the consumer the  
20 amount of any such fees or charges paid by the consumer to  
21 the person.

22 *Application*

- 23 (4) This section does not apply if:  
24 (a) the credit provider is an ADI; or  
25 (b) the credit contract is a small amount credit contract or  
26 bridging finance contract.

27 **32B Calculation of annual cost rate**

- 28 (1) The annual cost rate of a credit contract must be calculated as a  
29 nominal rate per annum, together with the compounding frequency,  
30 using the formula:

31 
$$n \times r \times 100\%$$

32 where:

1 ***n*** is the number of repayments per annum to be made under the  
2 credit contract (annualised if the term of the contract is less than 12  
3 months), except that:

- 4 (a) if repayments are to be made weekly—***n*** is 52.18; and  
5 (b) if repayments are to be made fortnightly—***n*** is 26.09; and  
6 (c) if the contract does not provide for a constant interval  
7 between repayments—***n*** is to be derived from the interval  
8 selected for the purposes of the definition of ***j*** in  
9 subsection (2).

10 ***r*** is the solution of the equation specified in subsection (2).

11 (2) The equation for the purposes of the definition of ***r*** in  
12 subsection (1) is:

13 
$$\sum_{j=0}^t \frac{A_j}{(1+r)^j} = \sum_{j=0}^t \frac{R_j + C_j}{(1+r)^j}$$

14 where:

15 ***A<sub>j</sub>*** is the amount of credit to be provided under the credit contract  
16 at time ***j*** (the value of ***j*** for the provision of the first amount of  
17 credit is taken to be zero).

18 ***C<sub>j</sub>*** is the credit cost amount (if any) for the credit contract that is  
19 payable by the debtor at time ***j*** in addition to the repayments ***R<sub>j</sub>***.

20 ***j*** is the time, measured as a multiple (not necessary integral) of:

- 21 (a) if the credit contract does not provide for a constant interval  
22 between contractual repayments—an interval of any kind  
23 selected by the credit provider as the unit of time; or  
24 (b) otherwise—the interval between contractual repayments that  
25 will have elapsed since the first amount of credit is provided  
26 under the credit contract.

27 ***R<sub>j</sub>*** is the repayment to be made at time ***j***.

28 ***t*** is the time, measured as a multiple of the interval between  
29 contractual repayments (or other interval so selected), that will  
30 elapse between:

- 31 (a) the time when the first amount of credit is provided under the  
32 credit contract; and

1 (b) the time when the last repayment is to be made under the  
2 contract.

3 *Credit cost amount*

4 (3) The **credit cost amount** for the credit contract is the amount  
5 calculated in accordance with the regulations. sum of the following  
6 amounts if they are ascertainable:

7 ~~———— (a) the amount of credit fees and charges payable in relation to~~  
8 ~~the contract;~~

9 ~~———— (b) the amount of a fee or charge payable by the debtor (whether~~  
10 ~~or not payable under the contract) to:~~

11 ~~———— (i) any person (whether or not associated with the credit~~  
12 ~~provider) for an introduction to the credit provider; or~~

13 ~~———— (ii) any person (whether or not associated with the credit~~  
14 ~~provider) for any service if the person has been~~  
15 ~~introduced to the debtor by the credit provider; or~~

16 ~~———— (iii) the credit provider for any service relating to the~~  
17 ~~provision of credit, other than a service referred to in~~  
18 ~~subparagraph (ii);~~

19 ~~———— (c) any other amount prescribed by the regulations.~~

20 ~~———— (4) For the purposes of subsection (3), the amounts referred to in that~~  
21 ~~subsection:~~

22 ~~———— (a) include an amount that is payable even if the credit is not~~  
23 ~~provided; but~~

24 ~~———— (b) do not include an amount of a government fee, charge or duty~~  
25 ~~payable in relation to the credit contract.~~

26 *Tolerances and assumptions etc.*

27 (5) The annual cost rate must be correct to at least the nearest one  
28 hundredth of 1% per annum.

29 (6) In calculating the annual cost rate, reasonable approximations may  
30 be made if it would be impractical or unreasonably onerous to  
31 make a precise calculation.

32 Example: If repayments are to be made on a fixed day each month, it may be  
33 assumed that repayments will be made on that day each month even  
34 though the credit contract provides for payment on the preceding or  
35 succeeding business day when the due date is not a business day.

1 (7) The tolerances and assumptions ~~under sections 180 to~~  
2 ~~182 prescribed by the regulations~~ apply to the calculation of the  
3 annual cost rate.

4 *Continuing credit contracts*

5 ~~(8) If the credit contract is a continuing credit contract, the following~~  
6 ~~assumptions also apply to the calculation of the annual cost rate of~~  
7 ~~the contract:~~

8 ~~(a) that the debtor has drawn down the maximum amount of~~  
9 ~~credit that the credit provider has agreed to provide under the~~  
10 ~~contract;~~

11 ~~(b) that the debtor will pay the minimum repayments specified in~~  
12 ~~the contract;~~

13 ~~(c) if credit is provided in respect of payment by the credit~~  
14 ~~provider to a third person in relation to goods or services or~~  
15 ~~cash supplied by that third person to the debtor from time to~~  
16 ~~time—that the debtor will not be supplied with any further~~  
17 ~~goods or services or cash;~~

18 ~~(d) if credit is provided in respect of cash supplied by the credit~~  
19 ~~provider to the debtor from time to time—that the debtor will~~  
20 ~~not be supplied with any further cash.~~

21 **14 Subsection 34(6) of the *National Credit Code***

22 Omit “A statement”, substitute “In the case of a credit contract other  
23 than a small amount credit contract, a statement”.

24 **15 After Division 5 of Part 2 of the *National Credit Code***

25 Insert:

26 **Division 5A—Additional rules relating to small amount**  
27 **credit contracts**

28 **39A Limit on the application of amount of credit provided under a**  
29 **small amount credit contract**

30 (1) No part of the amount of credit provided under a small amount  
31 credit contract may be applied to pay an amount (the *prohibited*  
32 *credit amount*) to:

33 (a) the credit provider; or

- 1 (b) a person prescribed by the regulations.
- 2 (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to:
- 3 (a) an amount of a permitted establishment fee, or a permitted
- 4 monthly fee, payable in relation to the small amount credit
- 5 contract; or
- 6 (b) an amount of a government fee, charge or duty payable in
- 7 relation to the small amount credit contract; or
- 8 (c) an amount prescribed by the regulations.
- 9 (3) If subsection (1) is contravened in relation to a small amount credit
- 10 contract:
- 11 (a) the debtor is not liable (and is taken never to have been
- 12 liable) to repay the prohibited credit amount to the credit
- 13 provider; and
- 14 (b) the debtor may recover as a debt due to the debtor any
- 15 amount paid to the credit provider to the extent that it relates
- 16 to the prohibited credit amount.

17 **39B Limit on amount that may be recovered if there is default under**

18 **a small amount credit contract**

- 19 (1) If there is a default in payment under a small amount credit
- 20 contract, the maximum amount that may be recovered (whether by
- 21 repayments under the contract or otherwise) by the credit provider
- 22 in relation to the contract must not exceed ~~an amount that is twice~~
- 23 ~~the adjusted credit amount in relation to the contract~~the amount
- 24 prescribed by the regulations.
- 25 (2) Any provision of the small amount credit contract that confers a
- 26 greater right is void to the extent that it does so. If an amount is in
- 27 fact recovered in excess of this limitation, it may be recovered
- 28 back.
- 29 (3) This section does not apply to enforcement expenses.

30 **16 At the end of subsection 111(1) of the *National Credit***

31 ***Code***

32 Add:

- 33 ; (j) subsection 32A(1);
- 34

1 | (k) subsection 32A(1A).:-

2 | **17 After paragraph 111(2)(f) of the *National Credit Code***

3 |       Insert:

4 |           (fa) subsection 32A(1);

5 |

6 |

(fb) subsection 32A(1A);

7 |

**18 Subsection 114(1) of the *National Credit Code***

8 |

After “order”, insert “in relation to a credit contract other than a small amount credit contract”.

9 |

10 |

**19 After subsection 114(1) of the *National Credit Code***

11 |

Insert:

12 |

(1A) On application being made by a debtor or a guarantor for an order in relation to a small amount credit contract, the maximum penalty that may be imposed by the court for a contravention of a key requirement is an amount not exceeding the sum of the following amounts:

13 |

14 |

15 |

16 |

17 |

(a) the amount of the permitted establishment fee payable in relation to the contract;

18 |

19 |

(b) the total amount of the permitted monthly fees payable in relation to the contract based on the term of the contract when it was made.

20 |

21 |

22 |

**20 Subsection 204(1) of the *National Credit Code***

23 |

Insert:

24 |

*adjusted credit amount*, in relation to a small amount credit contract, means the first amount of credit that is, or is to be, provided under the contract but does not include:

25 |

26 |

27 |

(a) the amount of a permitted establishment fee, or a permitted monthly fee, payable in relation to the contract; and

28 |

29 |

(b) if subsection 39A(1) is contravened in relation to the contract—the prohibited credit amount; and

30 |

31 |

(c) any other amount prescribed by the regulations.

32 |

**21 Subsection 204(1) of the *National Credit Code***

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## Schedule 5—Consumer leases

### *National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009*

#### **1 Subsection 5(1) (definition of lessor)**

Omit “means the lessor under a consumer lease”, substitute “has the same meaning as in section 204 of the National Credit Code”.

#### **2 Subsection 5(1) (definition of *value of a credit contract, mortgage, guarantee or consumer lease*)**

Repeal the definition.

#### **3 Subsection 5(1)**

Insert:

*value* of a credit contract, mortgage, guarantee or consumer lease:  
see section 199.

#### **4 Paragraph 147(7)(b)**

Omit “sections 72 and 94”, substitute “sections @177B and @179H”.

#### **5 Subsection 147(7) (note 1)**

Omit “Note 1”, substitute “Note”.

#### **6 Subsection 147(7) (note 2)**

Repeal the note.

#### **7 Subsection 199(2) (table items 2, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 12)**

Omit “, guarantee or consumer lease”, substitute “or guarantee”.

#### **8 Subsection 199(2) (at the end of the table)**

Add:

14	Section @175F of the National Credit Code	the value of the consumer lease to which the order relates is not more than: (a) \$40,000; or (b) if a higher amount is prescribed
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		by the regulations—that higher amount.
15	Subsection @175G(6) of the National Credit Code	the value of the consumer lease to which the order relates is not more than: (a) \$40,000; or (b) if a higher amount is prescribed by the regulations—that higher amount.
16	Section @177D of the National Credit Code	not applicable.
17	Section @177E of the National Credit Code	not applicable.
18	Section @177F of the National Credit Code	the value of the consumer lease to which the order relates is not more than: (a) \$40,000; or (b) if a higher amount is prescribed by the regulations—that higher amount.
19	Section @179K of the National Credit Code	not applicable.
20	Section @179Q of the National Credit Code	the value of the consumer lease to which the order relates is not more than: (a) \$40,000; or (b) if a higher amount is prescribed by the regulations—that higher amount.
21	Subsection @179R(3) of the National Credit Code	the order is for an amount that is not more than: (a) \$40,000; or (b) if a higher amount is prescribed by the regulations—that higher amount.

1 **9 Subsection 199(3)**

2 Omit “*of a credit contract, mortgage, guarantee or consumer lease*”,  
3 substitute “of a credit contract, mortgage, guarantee or consumer lease”.

1 **10 Paragraph 200(1)(b)**

2 Omit “or 96”, substitute “, 96, @177D or @179K”.

3 **11 Subsection 76(8) of the *National Credit Code***

4 Repeal the subsection.

5 **12 Subsection 87(6) of the *National Credit Code***

6 Repeal the subsection.

7 **13 Section 92 of the *National Credit Code***

8 Repeal the section.

9 **14 Subsection 173(1) of the *National Credit Code***

10 Repeal the subsection, substitute:

11 (1) A consumer lease must be in the form of a written lease document:

12 (a) signed by the lessor and the lessee; and

13 (b) containing the information required by this Division.

14 (1A) Subject to subsection (2), a consumer lease may consist of one or  
15 more separate documents.

16 **15 After subsection 173(2) of the *National Credit Code***

17 Insert:

18 (2A) In the case of a lease document consisting of more than one  
19 document, it is sufficient compliance with this section if one of the  
20 documents is duly signed and the other documents are referred to  
21 in the signed document.

22 **16 After section 173 of the *National Credit Code***

23 Insert:

24 **@173A Other forms of consumer lease**

25 (1) The regulations may authorise other ways of making a consumer  
26 lease that do not involve a written document.

27 (2) In that case, the provisions of this Division apply with such  
28 modifications as are prescribed by the regulations.

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**17 After section 174 of the *National Credit Code***

Insert:

**@174A Alteration of consumer lease document**

- (1) An alteration of (including an addition to) a new consumer lease document by the lessor after it is signed by the lessee is ineffective unless the lessee has agreed in writing to the alteration.
- (2) This section does not apply to an alteration having the effect of reducing the lessee's liabilities under the consumer lease.

**18 After section 175 of the *National Credit Code***

Insert:

**Division 4—Fees and charges****@175A Prohibited consumer lease fees or charges**

The regulations may specify:

- (a) consumer lease fees or charges; or
  - (b) classes of consumer lease fees or charges;
- that are prohibited for the purposes of this Code.

**@175B Fees or charges in relation to third parties***When this section applies*

- (1) This section applies if a fee or charge is payable by a lessee to the lessor for an amount (the *third party amount*) payable or paid by the lessor to another person, body or agency.

*Third party amount ascertainable at time of lessee payment*

- (2) If, when the fee or charge is paid by the lessee to the lessor, the third party amount is ascertainable, then the amount of the fee or charge must not exceed the third party amount.

*Third party amount not ascertainable at time of lessee payment*

- (3) If:

- 1 (a) when the fee or charge is paid by the lessee to the lessor, the  
2 third party amount is not ascertainable; and  
3 (b) after the fee or charge is paid, the lessor ascertains the third  
4 party amount; and  
5 (c) the third party amount is less than the amount of the fee or  
6 charge paid;  
7 then the lessor must refund or credit the difference to the lessee.

8 *Determining third party amount*

- 9 (4) The third party amount is to be determined by:  
10 (a) taking into account any discount, rebate or other allowance  
11 that is received or receivable by the lessor or a related body  
12 corporate (within the meaning of the *Corporations Act 2001*);  
13 and  
14 (b) disregarding any rebate on tax payable by the lessor or a  
15 related body corporate (within the meaning of that Act).

16 **Division 5—Lessor’s obligation to account**

17 **Subdivision A—Ongoing statements of account**

18 **@175C Statements of account**

- 19 (1) A lessor must give to the lessee, or arrange for the lessee to be  
20 given, periodic statements of account in accordance with this  
21 Subdivision.

22 Criminal penalty: 100 penalty units.

- 23 (2) The maximum period for a statement of account is 12 months.

- 24 (3) A statement of account need not be given if:

- 25 (a) the lessee was in default under the consumer lease during the  
26 statement period and the lessor has commenced enforcement  
27 proceedings; or  
28 (b) the lessee has died or is insolvent and the lessee’s personal  
29 representative or trustee in bankruptcy has not requested a  
30 statement of account.

- 31 (4) Subsection (1) is an offence of strict liability.

---

1 Note: For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.

2 **@175D Information to be contained in statements of account**

3 A statement of account must contain the information prescribed by  
4 the regulations.

5 **@175E Statement of amount owing and other matters**

- 6 (1) A lessor must, at the request of a lessee and within the time  
7 specified by this section, provide a statement of all or any of the  
8 following:  
9 (a) any amounts credited to the lessee's account during a period  
10 specified in the request;  
11 (b) any amounts currently overdue and the date they became due;  
12 (c) any amount currently payable and the date it becomes due;  
13 (d) any other information prescribed by the regulations.

14 Criminal penalty: 100 penalty units.

- 15 (2) The statement must be given:  
16 (a) within 14 days, if all information requested relates to a period  
17 1 year or less before the request is given; or  
18 (b) within 30 days, if any information requested relates to a  
19 period more than 1 year before the request is given.
- 20 (3) A statement under this section may be given orally but if the  
21 request for the statement is made in writing the statement must be  
22 given in writing.
- 23 (4) In the case of joint lessees, the statement under this section need  
24 only be given to a lessee who requests the statement and not,  
25 despite section 194, to each joint lessee.
- 26 (5) A lessor is not required to provide a further written statement under  
27 this section if it has, within the 3 months before the request is  
28 given, given such a statement to the person requesting it.
- 29 (6) Subsection (1) is an offence of strict liability.

30 Note: For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.

1       **@175F Court may order statement of account to be provided**

2                   If a statement of account is not provided within the time required  
3                   by this Subdivision, the court may, on the application of the lessee,  
4                   order the lessor to provide the statement or itself determine the  
5                   amounts in relation to which the statement was sought.

6       **@175G Disputed accounts**

- 7           (1) If:
- 8               (a) a liability is entered against a lessee under a consumer lease;  
9               and  
10              (b) the lessee, by written notice to the lessor, disputes the  
11              liability;
- 12           then the lessor must give the lessee a written notice explaining in  
13           reasonable detail how the liability arises.
- 14           (2) A written notice need not be given if the lessor agrees with the  
15           lessee as to the disputed amount and gives the lessee a written  
16           notice advising of the agreed liability.
- 17           (3) In the case of a consumer lease for which a statement of account is  
18           given, the notice of dispute must be given to the lessor within 30  
19           days after the day the lessee receives the statement of account in  
20           which the amount, or part of that amount, is first shown.
- 21           (4) In the case of a consumer lease in respect of which a statement of  
22           account need not be and is not given for the period to which the  
23           disputed liability relates, the notice of dispute must be given to the  
24           lessor not later than 3 months after the day the lease ends.
- 25           (5) The lessor must not begin enforcement proceedings on the basis of  
26           a default arising from the disputed liability until the period of 30  
27           days, starting on the day the lessor gives the written explanation or  
28           advice as to agreement, has expired.
- 29           Criminal penalty:   50 penalty units.
- 30           (6) A lessee or lessor may apply to the court to have the court  
31           determine a disputed liability and, if satisfied that a liability is  
32           genuinely disputed, the court may determine the matters in dispute  
33           and make such consequential orders as it thinks just.

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1 (7) If an application is made to the court under this section within 30  
2 days after the day the written explanation is given, the lessor must  
3 not, without leave of the court, begin enforcement proceedings on  
4 the basis of a default arising from the disputed liability.

5 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

6 (8) Subsections (5) and (7) are offences of strict liability.

7 Note: For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.

8 (9) This section does not affect a dispute not dealt with, or not arising,  
9 under this section.

## 10 **Subdivision B—End of lease statements**

### 11 **@175H End of lease statement**

12 (1) A lessor must arrange for the lessee to be given, not later than 90  
13 days before the end of the fixed term of a consumer lease, a  
14 statement containing the information prescribed by the regulations.

15 Criminal penalty: 100 penalty units.

16 (2) Subsection (1) does not apply in the circumstances (if any)  
17 prescribed by the regulations.

18 (3) Subsection (1) is an offence of strict liability.

19 Note: For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.

## 20 **Division 6—Certain transactions not to be treated as new** 21 **consumer leases**

### 22 **@175J Changes etc. under consumer leases**

23 If:

24 (a) there is:

25 (i) a change to an existing consumer lease that results in  
26 further goods being provided; or

27 (ii) a deferral or waiver of an amount under an existing  
28 consumer lease; or

29 (iii) a postponement relating to an existing consumer lease;  
30 and

---

- 1 (b) the change, deferral, waiver or postponement is made in  
2 accordance with this Code or the existing consumer lease;  
3 then the change, deferral, waiver or postponement is not to be  
4 treated as creating a new consumer lease or a credit contract for the  
5 purposes of this Code.

6 **Division 7—Changes to obligations under consumer leases**

7 **Subdivision A—Changes by agreement of parties**

8 **@177A Changes by agreement**

- 9 (1) If the parties under an existing consumer lease agree to change its  
10 terms, the lessor must, not later than 30 days after the date of the  
11 agreement, give to the lessee a written notice setting out:  
12 (a) particulars of the change in the terms of the consumer lease;  
13 and  
14 (b) any information required by the regulations.
- 15 Criminal penalty: 100 penalty units.
- 16 (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a change which defers or  
17 otherwise reduces the obligations of the lessee for a period not  
18 exceeding 90 days.
- 19 (3) This section does not apply to a change made under Subdivision B.
- 20 (4) The lessor may, under subsection (1), give a lessee particulars only  
21 of a matter as changed instead of particulars of the change, but  
22 only if the lessor:  
23 (a) makes it clear to the lessee that the matter has changed; or  
24 (b) issues to the lessee a new set of terms and conditions relating  
25 to the consumer lease.
- 26 (5) Subsection (1) is an offence of strict liability.
- 27 Note: For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.



---

1 **Subdivision B—Changes on grounds of hardship and unjust**  
2 **transactions**

3 **@177B Changes on grounds of hardship**

4 *Hardship notice*

- 5 (1) If a lessee considers that he or she is or will be unable to meet his  
6 or her obligations under a consumer lease, the lessee may give the  
7 lessor notice (a *hardship notice*), orally or in writing, of the  
8 lessee's inability to meet the obligations.

9 Note: If a lessee has given a lessor a hardship notice, there may be extra  
10 requirements (beyond those in section 179D) that the lessor must  
11 comply with before beginning enforcement proceedings—see section  
12 179F.

13 *Further information*

- 14 (2) Within 21 days after the day of receiving the lessee's hardship  
15 notice, the lessor may give the lessee a notice requiring the lessee  
16 to give the lessor within 21 days specified information relevant to  
17 deciding whether and how to change the consumer lease to address  
18 the lessee's inability to meet the lessee's obligations under the  
19 lease.

- 20 (3) The lessee must comply with the requirement.

21 Note: If the lessee does not comply with the requirement, the lessor may  
22 refuse to agree to change the lease.

23 *Notice of decision on changing consumer lease*

- 24 (4) The lessor must, before the end of the period identified under  
25 subsection (5), give the lessee a notice:

26 (a) that is in the form (if any) prescribed by the regulations and  
27 records the fact that the lessor and the lessee have agreed to  
28 change the consumer lease; or

29 (b) that is in the form (if any) prescribed by the regulations and  
30 states:

31 (i) the lessor and the lessee have not agreed to change the  
32 consumer lease; and

33 (ii) the reasons why they have not agreed; and

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- 1 (iii) the name and contact details of the approved external  
 2 dispute resolution scheme of which the lessor is a  
 3 member; and  
 4 (iv) the lessee's rights under that scheme.

5 Civil penalty: 2,000 penalty units.

- 6 (5) The lessor must give the notice before the end of the period  
 7 identified using the table.

**Period for giving notice**

	<b><u>If:</u></b>	<b><u>The period is:</u></b>
1	<u>The lessor does not require information under subsection (2)</u>	<u>21 days after the day of receiving the hardship notice</u>
2	<u>The lessor requires information under subsection (2) but does not receive any information in compliance with the requirement</u>	<u>28 days after the day of making the requirement</u>
<del>32</del>	<del><u>The lessor requires information under subsection (2) and receives information in compliance with the requirement</u> <u>The lessor requires information under subsection (2) but does not receive any information in compliance with the requirement</u></del>	<del><u>28 days after the day of making the requirement</u> <u>21 days after the day of receiving the information</u></del>

8 *Lessor's notice in response to hardship notice*

- 9 ~~(2) Within 21 days after the day of receiving the lessee's hardship~~  
 10 ~~notice, the lessor must give the lessee:~~  
 11 ~~(a) if the lessor agrees to negotiate a change to the lease—notice,~~  
 12 ~~in the form prescribed by the regulations, that the lessor~~  
 13 ~~agrees to negotiate; or~~  
 14 ~~(b) if the lessor does not agree to negotiate a change to the~~  
 15 ~~lease—a written notice that states:~~  
 16 ~~(i) that the lessor does not agree to negotiate; and~~  
 17 ~~(ii) the reasons for not agreeing to negotiate; and~~  
 18 ~~(iii) the name of the approved external dispute resolution~~  
 19 ~~scheme of which the lessor is a member; and~~  
 20 ~~(iv) the lessee's rights under that scheme.~~

21 ~~Criminal penalty: 30 penalty units.~~

~~Note: If a lessee has given a lessor a hardship notice, there may be extra requirements that the lessor must comply with before beginning enforcement proceedings—see section @179F.~~

~~(3) A lessor that has given notice under paragraph (2)(a) may, within 21 days after the day of giving that notice, give a notice under paragraph (2)(b).~~

*Strict liability*

~~(4) Subsection (2) is an offence of strict liability.~~

~~Note: For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.~~

### **@177C Notice of change**

(1) A lessor that enters into an agreement with a lessee to change the consumer lease as a result of a hardship notice by the lessee must, not later than 30 days after the date of the agreement, give to the lessee a written notice setting out:

- (a) particulars of the change in the terms of the lease; and
- (b) any information required by the regulations.

Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

(2) The lessor may, under subsection (1), give the lessee particulars only of a matter as changed instead of particulars of the change, but only if the lessor:

- (a) makes it clear to the lessee that the matter has changed; or
- (b) gives to the lessee a new set of terms and conditions relating to the lease.

(3) Subsection (1) is an offence of strict liability.

Note: For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.

### **@177D Changes by court**

(1) If a lessor does not change a consumer lease as a result of a hardship notice by a lessee, the lessee may apply to the court to change the terms of the lease.

(2) The court may, after allowing the applicant and the lessor a reasonable opportunity to be heard:

- 1 (a) by order change the lease (but not so as to reduce the amount  
2 ultimately payable by the lessee to the lessor under the lease),  
3 and make such other orders as it thinks fit; or  
4 (b) refuse to change the lease.
- 5 (3) The court may, if it thinks it appropriate in the circumstances, stay  
6 any enforcement proceedings under the lease, and make such other  
7 orders as it thinks fit, until the application has been determined.

8 **@177E Lessor may apply for variation of change**

- 9 (1) A lessor under a consumer lease that has been changed by an order  
10 under subsection @177D(2) may apply to the court for an order  
11 varying or revoking the order.
- 12 (2) A lessor subject to a stay of enforcement proceedings or other  
13 order under subsection @177D(3) may apply to the court for an  
14 order varying or revoking the stay or order.
- 15 (3) On an application under this section, the court may vary or revoke  
16 the order or stay to which the application relates as it thinks fit, or  
17 may refuse the application.

18 **@177F Court may reopen unjust transactions**

19 *Power to reopen unjust transactions*

- 20 (1) The court may, if satisfied on the application of a lessee that, in the  
21 circumstances relating to the relevant consumer lease at the time it  
22 was entered into or changed (whether or not by agreement), the  
23 lease or change was unjust, reopen the transaction that gave rise to  
24 the lease or change.

25 *Matters to be considered by court*

- 26 (2) In determining whether a term of a particular consumer lease is  
27 unjust in the circumstances relating to it at the time it was entered  
28 into or changed, the court is to have regard to the public interest  
29 and to all the circumstances of the case and may have regard to the  
30 following:  
31 (a) the consequences of compliance, or noncompliance, with all  
32 or any of the provisions of the lease;

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- 1 (b) the relative bargaining power of the parties;  
2 (c) whether or not, at the time the lease was entered into or  
3 changed, its provisions were the subject of negotiation;  
4 (d) whether or not it was reasonably practicable for the applicant  
5 to negotiate for the alteration of, or to reject, any of the  
6 provisions of the lease or the change;  
7 (e) whether or not any of the provisions of the lease impose  
8 conditions that are unreasonably difficult to comply with, or  
9 not reasonably necessary for the protection of the legitimate  
10 interests of a party to the lease;  
11 (f) whether or not the lessee, or a person who represented the  
12 lessee, was reasonably able to protect the interests of the  
13 lessee because of his or her age or physical or mental  
14 condition;  
15 (g) the form of the lease and the intelligibility of the language in  
16 which it is expressed;  
17 (h) whether or not, and if so when, independent legal or other  
18 expert advice was obtained by the lessee;  
19 (i) the extent to which the provisions of the lease or change and  
20 their legal and practical effect were accurately explained to  
21 the lessee and whether or not the lessee understood those  
22 provisions and their effect;  
23 (j) whether the lessor or any other person exerted or used unfair  
24 pressure, undue influence or unfair tactics on the lessee and,  
25 if so, the nature and extent of that unfair pressure, undue  
26 influence or unfair tactics;  
27 (k) whether the lessor took measures to ensure that the lessee  
28 understood the nature and implications of the transaction and,  
29 if so, the adequacy of those measures;  
30 (l) whether at the time the lease was entered into or changed, the  
31 lessor knew, or could have ascertained by reasonable inquiry  
32 at the time, that the lessee could not pay in accordance with  
33 its terms or not without substantial hardship;  
34 (m) whether the terms of the transaction or the conduct of the  
35 lessor is justified in the light of the risks undertaken by the  
36 lessor;  
37 (n) the terms of other comparable transactions involving other  
38 lessors and, if the injustice is alleged to result from excessive  
39 costs, the costs payable in comparable cases;
-

1 (o) any other relevant factor.

2 *Representing lessee*

3 (3) For the purposes of paragraph (2)(f), a person is taken to have  
4 represented a lessee if the person represented the lessee, or assisted  
5 the lessee to a significant degree, in the negotiations process prior  
6 to, or at, the time the consumer lease was entered into or changed.

7 *Unforeseen circumstances*

8 (4) In determining whether a consumer lease is unjust, the court is not  
9 to have regard to any injustice arising from circumstances that  
10 were not reasonably foreseeable when the lease was entered into or  
11 changed.

12 *Conduct*

13 (5) In determining whether to grant relief in respect of a consumer  
14 lease that it finds to be unjust, the court may have regard to the  
15 conduct of the parties to the proceedings in relation to the lease  
16 since it was entered into or changed.

17 *Application*

18 (6) This section does not apply to a change to a consumer lease under  
19 this Subdivision.

20 **@177G Orders on reopening of transactions**

21 The court may, if it reopens a transaction under this Subdivision,  
22 do any one or more of the following, despite any settlement of  
23 accounts or any agreement purporting to close previous dealings  
24 and create a new obligation:

- 25 (a) reopen an account already taken between the parties to the  
26 transaction;
- 27 (b) relieve the lessee from payment of any amount in excess of  
28 such amount as the court, having regard to the risk involved  
29 and all other circumstances, considers to be reasonably  
30 payable;
- 31 (c) set aside either wholly or in part or revise or alter an  
32 agreement made in connection with the transaction;

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- 1 (d) give judgement for or make an order in favour of a party to  
2 the transaction of such amount as, having regard to the relief  
3 (if any) which the court thinks fit to grant, is justly due to that  
4 party under the consumer lease;
- 5 (e) give judgement or make an order against a person for  
6 delivery of goods to which the lease relates and which are in  
7 the possession of that person;
- 8 (f) make ancillary or consequential orders.

9 **@177H Applications by ASIC**

- 10 (1) This section applies if ASIC considers that it is in the public  
11 interest to make an application under this Subdivision.
- 12 (2) ASIC may make an application under this Subdivision and has  
13 standing to represent the public interest.
- 14 (3) The application:
- 15 (a) may apply to any one or more consumer leases; and  
16 (b) may apply to all or any class of consumer leases entered into  
17 by a lessor during a specified period (for example, all leases  
18 entered into during a specified period that are affected by a  
19 specified matter for which relief is sought).

20 **@177J Time limit**

21 An application may not be brought under this Subdivision more  
22 than 2 years after the relevant consumer lease is terminated,  
23 discharged or otherwise comes to an end.

24 **@177K Joinder of parties**

- 25 (1) If it appears to the court that a person other than a lessor (a *third*  
26 *party*) has shared in the profits of, or has a beneficial interest  
27 prospectively or otherwise in, a consumer lease that the court holds  
28 to be unjust, the court may make an order about the third party that  
29 the court considers appropriate.
- 30 (2) However, before making an order about the third party, the court  
31 must:
- 32 (a) join the third party as a party to the proceedings; and

1 (b) give the third party an opportunity to appear and be heard in  
2 the proceedings.

3 **19 Section 176 of the *National Credit Code***

4 Repeal the section.

5 **20 Division 3 of Part 11 of the *National Credit Code* (heading)**

6 Repeal the heading, substitute:

7 **Division 8—Repossession, termination and enforcement of**  
8 **consumer leases**

9 **Subdivision A—Repossession of goods under consumer lease**

10 **21 Section 177 of the *National Credit Code***

11 Repeal the section.

12 **22 After section 178 of the *National Credit Code***

13 Insert:

14 **Subdivision B—Termination of consumer lease by lessee**

15 **@178A Termination before goods have been provided**

16 (1) If:

17 (a) a consumer lease has been entered into; and

18 (b) the goods hired under the lease have not been provided;

19 then the lessee may, by written notice to the lessor, terminate the  
20 lease.

21 (2) Nothing in subsection (1) prevents the lessor from retaining or  
22 requiring payment of fees or charges incurred before the  
23 termination and which would have been payable under the  
24 consumer lease.

25 **23 Section 179 of the *National Credit Code* (heading)**

26 Repeal the heading, substitute:



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**179 Termination after goods have been provided****24 After section 179 of the *National Credit Code***

Insert:

**@179A Statement of amount payable on termination**

- (1) A lessor must, at the written request of a lessee, provide a written statement of the amount required to terminate a consumer lease as at such date as the lessee specifies. If so requested, the lessor must also provide details of the items which make up that amount.
- (2) The statement must also contain:
  - (a) a statement to the effect that the amount payable to terminate the lease may change according to the date on which it is paid; and
  - (b) a statement to the effect that the lessee has no right to own the goods if the lease is terminated; and
  - (c) a statement to the effect that the lessee must return the goods to the lessor by a specified date; and
  - (d) any other matters prescribed by the regulations.
- (3) A lessor must give a statement, complying with this section, within 7 days after the day the request is given to the lessor.

Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

- (4) In the case of joint lessees, the statement need only be given to the lessee who requests the statement and not, despite section 194, to each joint lessee.
- (5) Subsection (3) is an offence of strict liability.

Note: For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.**@179B Court may determine amount payable on termination if lessor does not**

- (1) If the lessor does not provide a statement of the amount payable to terminate a consumer lease in accordance with this Subdivision after a request is duly made by a lessee, the court may, on the application of the lessee, determine:
  - (a) the amount payable on the date of determination; and

- 1 (b) the amount by which it increases daily; and  
2 (c) the period for which the determination is applicable.
- 3 (2) The consumer lease is discharged if:  
4 (a) the goods hired under the lease are returned to the lessor  
5 within the applicable period; and  
6 (b) an amount calculated in accordance with the determination is  
7 tendered to the lessor within the applicable period.

8 **@179C One-off notice to be given the first time a direct debit default**  
9 **occurs**

- 10 (1) This section applies if:  
11 (a) a lessee authorises payment of an amount for a consumer  
12 lease by direct debit; and  
13 (b) default occurs; and  
14 (c) it is the first occasion the default occurs.
- 15 (2) The lessor must give the lessee a notice, complying with this  
16 section, within 14 days of the default occurring.
- 17 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.
- 18 (3) The notice must contain the information prescribed by the  
19 regulations.
- 20 (4) Subsection (2) is an offence of strict liability.  
21 Note: For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.
- 22 (5) This section does not affect any other requirement under this Code  
23 to give a notice.

24 **Subdivision C—Enforcement of consumer leases**

25 **@179D Requirements to be met before lessor can enforce consumer**  
26 **lease against defaulting lessee**

27 *Enforcement of consumer lease*

- 28 (1) A lessor must not begin enforcement proceedings against a lessee  
29 in relation to a consumer lease unless:  
30 (a) the lessee is in default under the lease; and
-

- 
- 1 (b) the lessor has given the lessee a default notice, complying  
2 with this section, allowing the lessee a period of at least 30  
3 days from the date of the notice to remedy the default; and  
4 (c) the default has not been remedied within that period.

5 **Criminal penalty:** 50 penalty units.

6 **Note:** If a lessee has given a lessor a hardship notice or a postponement  
7 request there may be extra requirements that the lessor must comply  
8 with before beginning enforcement proceedings—see sections @179F  
9 and @179H.

10 *Default notice requirements*

- 11 (2) A default notice must contain a prominent heading at its top stating  
12 that it is a default notice and specify:
- 13 (a) the default; and  
14 (b) the action necessary to remedy the default; and  
15 (c) a period for remedying the default; and  
16 (d) the date after which enforcement proceedings in relation to  
17 the default, and, if relevant, repossession of goods hired  
18 under the lease may begin if the default has not been  
19 remedied; and  
20 (e) the information prescribed by the regulations about the  
21 lessee's right to:
- 22 (i) give a hardship notice under section @177B; or  
23 (ii) give a postponement request under section @179H; or  
24 (iii) make an application to the court under sections @177D  
25 and @179K; and  
26 (f) the information prescribed by the regulations about:
- 27 (i) the approved external dispute resolution scheme of  
28 which the lessor is a member; and  
29 (ii) the lessee's rights under that scheme; and  
30 (g) that a subsequent default of the same kind that occurs during  
31 the period specified for remedying the original default may  
32 be the subject of enforcement proceedings without further  
33 notice if it is not remedied within the period; and  
34 (h) that, under the *Privacy Act 1988*, the debt may be included in  
35 a credit reporting agency's credit information file about the  
36 lessee if:
- 37 (i) the debt remains overdue for 60 days or more; and

- 1 (ii) the lessor has taken steps to recover all or part of the  
2 debt; and  
3 (i) any other information prescribed by the regulations.

4 *When default notice not required*

- 5 (3) A lessor is not required to give a default notice or to wait until the  
6 period specified in the default notice has elapsed, before beginning  
7 enforcement proceedings, if:  
8 (a) the lessor reasonably believes that it was induced by fraud on  
9 the part of the lessee to enter into the consumer lease; or  
10 (b) the lessor has made reasonable attempts to locate the lessee  
11 but without success; or  
12 (c) the court authorises the lessor to begin the enforcement  
13 proceedings; or  
14 (d) the lessor reasonably believes that the lessee has disposed of  
15 goods hired under the lease, or intends to dispose of such  
16 goods, contrary to the terms of the lease; or  
17 (e) the lessee becomes insolvent after entering into the consumer  
18 lease.

19 *Non-remedial default*

- 20 (4) If the lessor reasonably believes that a default is not capable of  
21 being remedied:  
22 (a) the default notice need only specify the default; and  
23 (b) the lessor may begin the enforcement proceedings after the  
24 period of 30 days from the date of the notice.

25 *Strict liability*

- 26 (5) Subsection (1) is an offence of strict liability.

27 Note: For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.

28 **@179E Defaults may be remedied**

- 29 (1) If a default notice under section @179D states that the lessor  
30 intends to take action because the lessee is in default under the  
31 consumer lease, the lessee may remedy the default within the  
32 period specified in the notice, and the lease is then reinstated and  
33 any acceleration clause cannot operate.

- 1 (2) A lessee does not remedy the default if, at the end of the period, the  
 2 lessee is in default under the consumer lease because of the breach  
 3 specified in the notice or because of a subsequent breach of the  
 4 same type.

5 **@179F Effect of hardship notices on enforcement**

- 6 (1) This section applies if:
- 7 (a) a lessor is required to give a default notice under section  
 8 @179D before beginning enforcement proceedings; and
- 9 (b) before or after the lessor gives the default notice, the lessee  
 10 gives the lessor a hardship notice (the *current hardship*  
 11 *notice*) under section @177B; and
- 12 (c) either:
- 13 (i) in the 4 months before the current hardship notice is  
 14 given, the lessee had not given the lessor another  
 15 hardship notice; or
- 16 (ii) in that 4-month period, the lessee had given the lessor  
 17 one or more other hardship notices, but the lessor  
 18 reasonably believes that the basis on which the current  
 19 hardship notice was given is materially different from  
 20 the bases on which the other hardship notices were  
 21 given.
- 22 (2) The lessor must not begin enforcement proceedings against the  
 23 lessee unless:
- 24 (a) the lessor has given the lessee a notice under paragraph  
 25 @177B(42)(b), in response to the current hardship notice;  
 26 stating that the lessor and the lessee have not agreed to  
 27 change~~stating that the lessor does not agree to negotiate a~~  
 28 ~~change to~~ the consumer lease; and
- 29 (b) the period of 14 days, starting on the day the lessor gave the  
 30 notice under paragraph @177B(42)(b), has expired.

31 **Criminal penalty:** 50 penalty units.

32 Note: The lessor must allow the lessee at least 30 days from the date of the  
 33 default notice to remedy the default—see section @179D. The 14-day  
 34 period in subsection (2) may end before, at the same time as, or after  
 35 the end of the period for remedying the default specified in the default  
 36 notice.

- 1 (3) However, the lessor may take possession of goods hired under a  
2 consumer lease if the lessor reasonably believes that:  
3 (a) the lessee has removed or disposed of the goods, or intends to  
4 remove or dispose of them; or  
5 (b) urgent action is necessary to protect the goods.
- 6 (4) Subsection (2) is an offence of strict liability.  
7 Note: For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.

8 **@179G Requirements to be met before lessor can enforce an**  
9 **acceleration clause**

- 10 (1) An acceleration clause of a consumer lease is to operate only if:  
11 (a) the lessee is in default under the lease; and  
12 (b) the lessor has given to the lessee a default notice under  
13 section @179D; and  
14 (c) the default notice contains an additional statement of:  
15 (i) the manner in which the liabilities of the lessee under  
16 the consumer lease would be affected by the operation  
17 of the acceleration clause; and  
18 (ii) the amount required to terminate the lease (as  
19 accelerated); and  
20 (d) the default has not been remedied within the period specified  
21 in the default notice (unless the lessor reasonably believes  
22 that the default is not capable of being remedied).
- 23 (2) However, a lessor is not required to give a default notice under  
24 section @179D or to wait until the period specified in the default  
25 notice has elapsed before bringing an acceleration clause into  
26 operation, if:  
27 (a) the lessor reasonably believes that it was induced by fraud on  
28 the part of the lessee to enter into the consumer lease; or  
29 (b) the lessor has made reasonable attempts to locate the lessee  
30 but without success; or  
31 (c) the court authorises the lessor not to do so; or  
32 (d) the lessor reasonably believes that the lessee has removed or  
33 disposed of goods hired under a consumer lease, or intends to  
34 remove or dispose of goods hired under the lease, or that  
35 urgent action is necessary to protect the goods.

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**Subdivision D—Postponement of enforcement proceedings****@179H Postponement of exercise of rights***Postponement request*

- (1) A lessee who has been given a default notice under section @179D may, at any time before the end of the period specified in the notice, request (a *postponement request*), orally or in writing, that the lessor negotiate a postponement of:
- (a) the enforcement proceedings; or
  - (b) any action taken under such proceedings; or
  - (c) the operation of any applicable acceleration clause.

*Lessor's notice about postponement*

- (2) If the lessee gives the postponement request, the lessor must, within 21 days after the day of receiving the request, give the person a written notice:
- (a) that states whether or not the lessor agrees to negotiate a postponement; and
  - (b) if the lessor does not agree to negotiate—that states:
    - (i) the name of the approved external dispute resolution scheme of which the lessor is a member; and
    - (ii) the person's rights under that scheme; and
    - (iii) the reasons for not agreeing to negotiate.

Criminal penalty: 30 penalty units.

*Enforcement proceedings*

- (3) If the lessee gives the postponement request, the lessor must not begin enforcement proceedings unless:
- (a) the lessor has given the lessee a notice under subsection (2) in response to the postponement request; and
  - (b) the period of 14 days, starting on the day the lessor gives the notice under subsection (2), has expired.

Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

Note: The lessor must allow the lessee at least 30 days from the date of the default notice to remedy the default—see section @179D. The 14-day

1 period in subsection (3) may end before, at the same time as, or after  
2 the end of the period for remedying the default specified in the default  
3 notice.

- 4 (4) However, the lessor may take possession of goods hired under the  
5 consumer lease if the lessor reasonably believes that:  
6 (a) the lessee has removed or disposed of the goods, or intends to  
7 remove or dispose of them; or  
8 (b) urgent action is necessary to protect the goods.

9 *Strict liability*

- 10 (5) Subsections (2) and (3) are offences of strict liability.

11 Note: For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.

12 **@179J Effect of negotiated postponement**

13 (1) A default notice under section @179D is taken, for the purposes of  
14 this Code, not to have been given if a postponement is negotiated  
15 with the lessor under section @179H and the lessee complies with  
16 the conditions of postponement.

17 (2) A lessor must give written notice of the conditions of a  
18 postponement referred to in subsection (1) not later than 30 days  
19 after agreement is reached on the postponement. The notice must  
20 set out the consequences under subsection (5) if the conditions of  
21 the postponement are not complied with.

22 Criminal penalty: 100 penalty units.

- 23 (3) Subsection (2) is an offence of strict liability.

24 Note: For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.

25 (4) A lessor that is required to give notice under section @177A  
26 (which deals with changes to leases by agreement) in relation to a  
27 postponement is not required to comply with subsection (2).

28 (5) If any of the conditions of a postponement are not complied with, a  
29 lessor is not required to give a further default notice under this  
30 Code to the lessee with whom the postponement was negotiated  
31 before proceeding with enforcement proceedings.



1        **@179K Postponement by court**

- 2                (1) If the lessee is unable to negotiate a postponement, the lessee may  
3                      apply to the court for a postponement.
- 4                (2) After allowing the applicant and the lessor a reasonable  
5                      opportunity to be heard, the court may:  
6                          (a) order the postponement to which the application relates; or  
7                          (b) refuse to order the postponement; or  
8                          (c) make such other orders as it thinks fit.
- 9                (3) The court may, if it thinks it appropriate in the circumstances, stay  
10                      any enforcement proceedings under the consumer lease until the  
11                      application has been determined.

12        **@179L Lessor may apply for variation of postponement order**

- 13                (1) A lessor that is subject to an order under this Subdivision may  
14                      apply to the court for variation of the order.
- 15                (2) On such an application, the court may:  
16                          (a) vary the order to which the application relates as it thinks fit;  
17                                  or  
18                          (b) refuse to vary the order; or  
19                          (c) revoke the order.

20        **Subdivision E—Enforcement procedures for goods hired under**  
21                      **a consumer lease**

22        **@179M Information as to location of goods hired under a consumer**  
23                      **lease**

- 24                (1) A lessor may, by written notice to a lessee, require the lessee to  
25                      inform the lessor, within 7 days after the day the notice is given to  
26                      the lessee, where the goods hired under the consumer lease are and,  
27                      if the goods are not in the lessee's possession, to give the lessor all  
28                      information in the lessee's possession that might assist the lessor to  
29                      trace the goods.
- 30                (2) A lessee who contravenes a notice under this section commits an  
31                      offence.
-

1 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

2 (3) Subsection (2) is an offence of strict liability.

3 Note: For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.

4 **@179N Entry to residential property to take possession of goods**

5 (1) A lessor, or an agent of a lessor, must not enter any part of  
6 premises used for residential purposes for the purpose of taking  
7 possession of goods hired under a consumer lease unless:

8 (a) the court has authorised the entry; or

9 (b) the occupier of the premises has, after being informed in  
10 writing of the provisions of this section, consented in writing  
11 to the entry.

12 (2) The regulations may provide for procedures for the obtaining and  
13 giving of consent for the purposes of this section and may set out  
14 the circumstances in which consent is or is not taken to have been  
15 given.

16 (3) If premises are entered in contravention of this section by a lessor  
17 or an agent of a lessor, the lessor commits an offence.

18 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

19 (4) Subsection (3) is an offence of strict liability.

20 Note: For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.

21 **@179P Court may order entry**

22 The court may, on the application of a lessor that is entitled to take  
23 possession of goods hired under a consumer lease, authorise the  
24 lessor to enter residential premises for the purpose of taking  
25 possession of the goods.

26 **@179Q Order for possession**

27 (1) The court may, on the application of a lessor that is entitled to take  
28 possession of goods hired under a consumer lease, order a person  
29 who has possession of the goods to deliver them to the lessor:

30 (a) at a specified time or place; or

31 (b) within a specified period.

- 
- 1 (2) The court may, on the application of a lessor or other person  
2 required to deliver goods to a lessor, by order vary the place at  
3 which or time or period within which goods must be delivered to  
4 the lessor.
- 5 (3) A person who contravenes an order under this section commits an  
6 offence.
- 7 Criminal penalty: 30 penalty units.
- 8 (4) Subsection (3) is an offence of strict liability.
- 9 Note: For strict liability, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.

## 10 **Subdivision F—Enforcement expenses**

### 11 **@179R Recovery of enforcement expenses**

- 12 (1) A lessor must not recover or seek to recover enforcement expenses  
13 from a lessee in excess of those reasonably incurred by the lessor.  
14 Enforcement expenses of a lessor extend to those reasonably  
15 incurred by the use of the staff and facilities of the lessor.
- 16 (2) Any provision of the consumer lease that appears to confer a  
17 greater right is void. If enforcement expenses are in fact recovered  
18 in excess of this limitation, they may be recovered back.
- 19 (3) If there is a dispute between the lessor and the lessee about the  
20 amount of enforcement expenses that may be recovered by the  
21 lessor, the court may, on application by any of the parties to the  
22 dispute, determine the amount of that liability.

## 23 **Division 9—Linked lessors and tied consumer leases**

### 24 **Subdivision A—Interpretation and application**

#### 25 **@179S Linked lessors and tied consumer leases**

- 26 (1) For the purposes of this Code, a *linked lessor* of a supplier means a  
27 lessor:
- 28 (a) with whom the supplier has a contract, arrangement or  
29 understanding relating to:

- 1 (i) the supply to the supplier of goods in which the supplier  
2 deals; or  
3 (ii) the business carried on by the supplier of supplying  
4 goods; or  
5 (iii) the provision to persons of a consumer lease for the hire  
6 of goods supplied by the supplier to the lessor; or  
7 (b) to whom the supplier, by arrangement with the lessor,  
8 regularly refers persons for the purpose of being provided  
9 with a consumer lease; or  
10 (c) whose forms of contract or forms of application or offers for  
11 a consumer lease are, by arrangement with the lessor, made  
12 available to persons by the supplier; or  
13 (d) with whom the supplier has a contract, arrangement or  
14 understanding under which applications for a consumer lease  
15 or offers to be provided with a consumer lease from the  
16 lessor may be signed by persons at the premises of the  
17 supplier.
- 18 (2) A *tiered consumer lease* is a consumer lease entered into between a  
19 lessor and a lessee where:  
20 (a) the lessee enters into the lease to hire goods supplied by the  
21 supplier to the lessor; and  
22 (b) at the time the lease is entered into the lessor is a linked  
23 lessor of the supplier.

24 **Subdivision B—Liability of lessors for suppliers’**  
25 **misrepresentations**

26 **@179T Lessor liable for supplier’s misrepresentations about hired**  
27 **goods**

- 28 (1) If there is a tiered consumer lease, any representation, warranty or  
29 statement made (whether orally or in writing) by the supplier, or  
30 any person acting on behalf of the supplier, to the lessee in relation  
31 to:  
32 (a) goods hired under the lease; or  
33 (b) the lease; or  
34 (c) services, supplied or arranged by the lessor, that are  
35 incidental to the hire of goods under the lease;

1 gives the lessee the same rights against the lessor as the lessee  
2 would have had if it had been made by the lessor.

3 (2) Without prejudice to any other rights or remedies to which a lessor  
4 may be entitled, a lessor is entitled to be indemnified by the person  
5 who made the representation, warranty or statement, and any  
6 person on whose behalf it was made, against any damage suffered  
7 by the lessor through the operation of this section.

## 8 **Division 10—Conduct relating to consumer leases**

### 9 **@179U False or misleading representations**

10 (1) A person must not make a false or misleading representation:  
11 (a) in relation to a matter that is material to entry into a  
12 consumer lease or a related transaction; or  
13 (b) in attempting to induce another person to enter into a  
14 consumer lease or a related transaction.

15 Criminal penalty: 50 penalty units.

16 (2) It is a defence to prosecution for an offence against this section if a  
17 person charged proves that he or she reasonably believed that the  
18 representation was not false or misleading.

19 (3) A person who suffers loss as a result of a contravention of this  
20 section by another person may recover the amount of the loss from:  
21 (a) that other person; or  
22 (b) any other person involved in the contravention.

### 23 **@179V Harassment**

24 A lessor or supplier must not harass a person in attempting to get  
25 that person to:

26 (a) apply for a consumer lease; or  
27 (b) enter into a consumer lease or a related transaction.

28 Criminal penalty: 100 penalty units.

1 **Division 11—Other Code provisions applicable to**  
2 **consumer leases**

3 **@179W Application of certain Code provisions to consumer leases**

- 4 (1) Part 12 (relating to miscellaneous matters) and subsection 204(2)  
5 (definition of *associated*) apply in relation to a consumer lease in  
6 the same way as they apply in relation to a credit contract.
- 7 (2) For the purposes of the application of those provisions:
- 8 (a) references to a credit provider are to be read as references to  
9 a lessor; and
- 10 (b) references to a debtor are to be read as references to a lessee;  
11 and
- 12 (c) references to a credit contract or contract are to be read as  
13 references to a consumer lease; and
- 14 (d) references to a linked credit provider are to be read as  
15 references to a linked lessor.

16 **25 Subsection 204(1) of the *National Credit Code* (definition**  
17 **of *acceleration clause*)**

18 Repeal the definition, substitute:

19 *acceleration clause* means:

- 20 (a) in relation to a credit contract or mortgage—a term of a credit  
21 contract or mortgage providing that:
- 22 (i) on the occurrence or non-occurrence of a particular  
23 event, the credit provider becomes entitled to immediate  
24 payment of all, or a part, of an amount under the  
25 contract that would not otherwise have been  
26 immediately payable; or
- 27 (ii) whether or not on the occurrence or non-occurrence of a  
28 particular event, the credit provider has a discretion to  
29 require repayment of the amount of credit otherwise  
30 than by repayments fixed, or determined on a basis  
31 stated, in the contract;
- 32 but does not include any such term in a credit contract or  
33 mortgage that is an on demand facility; or
- 34 (b) in relation to a consumer lease—a term of a consumer lease  
35 providing that:

- 
- 1 (i) on the occurrence or non-occurrence of a particular  
2 event, the lessor becomes entitled to immediate payment  
3 of all, or a part, of an amount under the lease that would  
4 not otherwise have been immediately payable; or  
5 (ii) whether or not on the occurrence or non-occurrence of a  
6 particular event, the lessor has a discretion to require  
7 payment of an amount payable under a lease otherwise  
8 than by repayments fixed, or determined on a basis  
9 stated, in the lease.

10 **26 Subsection 204(1) of the *National Credit Code***

11 Insert:

12 *Bulk Electronic Clearing System* means the system established by  
13 the Australian Payments Clearing Association to manage the  
14 conduct of the exchange and settlement of bulk electronic low  
15 value transactions and includes any replacement system.

16 **27 Subsection 204(1) of the *National Credit Code***

17 Insert:

18 *consumer lease fees or charges* means fees or charges payable in  
19 connection with a consumer lease, but does not include:  
20 (a) enforcement expenses; or  
21 (b) government charges, or duties, on receipts or withdrawals.

22 **28 Subsection 204(1) of the *National Credit Code* (definition  
23 of *default notice*)**

24 Repeal the definition, substitute:

25 *default notice*:

- 26 (a) in relation to credit contracts, mortgages and guarantees—see  
27 section 88; and  
28 (b) in relation to consumer leases—see section @179D.

29 **29 Subsection 204(1) of the *National Credit Code***

30 Insert:

31 *direct debit*, in relation to the payment of an amount, means the  
32 debiting of an amount against an account with a financial

1 institution that is processed through the Bulk Electronic Clearing  
2 System, as specified and authorised in writing by:

- 3 (a) in relation to the payment by a debtor of an amount for a  
4 credit contract—the debtor; and  
5 (b) in relation to the payment by a lessee of an amount for a  
6 consumer lease—the lessee.

7 **30 Subsection 204(1) of the *National Credit Code* (definition  
8 of *enforcement proceedings*)**

9 Repeal the definition, substitute:

10 *enforcement proceedings* means:

- 11 (a) for a credit contract, consumer lease or guarantee—  
12 proceedings in a court to recover a payment due under the  
13 contract, lease or guarantee; or  
14 (b) for a consumer lease or mortgage—taking possession of  
15 property under the lease or mortgage; or  
16 (c) for a mortgage—taking any other action to enforce the  
17 mortgage.

18 **31 Subsection 204(1) of the *National Credit Code***

19 Insert:

20 *hardship notice*:

- 21 (a) in relation to credit contracts—see subsection 72(1); and  
22 (b) in relation to consumer leases—see subsection @177B(1).

23 **32 Subsection 204(1) of the *National Credit Code***

24 Insert:

25 *lessee* means the lessee under a consumer lease to which Part 11  
26 applies, and includes a prospective lessee.

27 **33 Subsection 204(1) of the *National Credit Code***

28 Insert:

29 *lessor* means the lessor under a consumer lease to which Part 11  
30 applies, and includes a prospective lessor.

31 **34 Subsection 204(1) of the *National Credit Code***

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## **Schedule 6—Application provisions**

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### *National Consumer Credit Protection (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2009*

5

6

#### **1 Schedule 4 (heading)**

7

Repeal the heading, substitute:

8

#### **Schedule 4—Application and transitional provisions for the National Consumer Credit Protection Amendment (Home Loans and Credit Cards) Act 2011**

9

10

11

12

#### **2 Part 1 of Schedule 4 (heading)**

13

Repeal the heading.

14

#### **3 Item 1 of Schedule 4**

15

Omit “In this Part”, substitute “In this Schedule”.

16

#### **4 At the end of the Act**

17

Add:

18

#### **Schedule 5—Application provisions for the Consumer Credit and Corporations Legislation Amendment (Enhancements) Act 2011**

19

20

21

22

### **Part 1—Definition**

23

#### **1 Definition**

24

In this Schedule:

25

*amending Act* means the *Consumer Credit and Corporations Legislation Amendment (Enhancements) Act 2011*.

26

1 **Part 2—Schedule 1 (enhancements) to the amending**  
2 **Act**

3 **2 Section 128 of the National Credit Act**

4 The amendments of section 128 of the National Credit Act made by  
5 Schedule 1 to the amending Act apply in relation to representations  
6 made on or after the commencement of that Schedule.

7 **3 Section @180A of the National Credit Act**

8 Section @180A of the National Credit Act, as inserted by Schedule 1 to  
9 the amending Act, applies in relation to credit services provided on or  
10 after the commencement of that Schedule.

11 **4 Sections 32 and 40 of the new Credit Code**

12 The amendments of sections 32 and 40 of the new Credit Code made by  
13 Schedule 1 to the amending Act apply in relation to credit contracts  
14 entered into on or after the commencement of that Schedule.

15 **5 Sections 72, 73, 74 and 88 of the new Credit Code**

16 The amendments of sections 72, 73, 74 and 88 of the new Credit Code  
17 made by Schedule 1 to the amending Act apply in relation to credit  
18 contracts made on or after the commencement of that Schedule.

19 **6 Section @89A of the new Credit Code**

20 Section @89A of the new Credit Code, as inserted by Schedule 1 to the  
21 amending Act, applies in relation to credit contracts, mortgages and  
22 guarantees entered into on or after the commencement of that Schedule.

23 **7 Section 94 of the new Credit Code**

24 The amendments of section 94 of the new Credit Code made by  
25 Schedule 1 to the amending Act apply in relation to credit contracts,  
26 mortgages and guarantees entered into on or after the commencement of  
27 that Schedule.

28 **8 Section 124 of the new Credit Code**

29 The amendments of section 124 of the new Credit Code made by  
30 Schedule 1 to the amending Act apply in relation to applications made  
31 on or after the commencement of that Schedule, whether the  
32 contraventions occurred before, on or after that commencement.

1 **Part 3—Schedule 2 (reverse mortgages) to the**  
2 **amending Act**

3 **9 Subsections 179(6) and (7) of the National Credit Act**

4 Subsections 179(6) and (7) of the National Credit Act, as ~~inserted-~~  
5 ~~by~~added by [item 11 of](#) Schedule 2 to the amending Act, apply in  
6 relation to credit contracts entered into on or after the commencement  
7 of that ~~Schedule~~item.

8 **10 Subsection 17(15A) of the new Credit Code**

9 Subsection 17(15A) of the new Credit Code, as inserted by [item 12 of](#)  
10 Schedule 2 to the amending Act, applies in relation to credit contracts  
11 entered into on or after the commencement of that ~~Schedule~~item.

12 **11 Section @18A of the new Credit Code**

13 Section @18A of the new Credit Code, as inserted by [item 13 of](#)  
14 Schedule 2 to the amending Act, applies to entry into, and changes to,  
15 credit contracts on or after the commencement of that ~~Schedule~~item.

16 **12 Subsection 26(6) of the new Credit Code**

17 Subsection 26(6) of the new Credit Code, as added by [item 15 of](#)  
18 Schedule 2 to the amending Act, applies in relation to credit contracts  
19 entered into on or after the commencement of that ~~Schedule~~item.

20 **13 Section 33 of the new Credit Code**

21 The amendments of section 33 of the new Credit Code made by [items](#)  
22 [16 and 17 of](#) Schedule 2 to the amending Act apply to credit contracts  
23 entered into before, on or after the commencement of ~~those items.the-~~  
24 ~~Schedule~~.

25 **14 Section @67A of the new Credit Code**

26 Section @67A of the new Credit Code, as inserted by [item 18 of](#)  
27 Schedule 2 to the amending Act, applies in relation to credit contracts  
28 entered into on or after the commencement of that ~~Schedule~~item.

29 **15 Subdivision B of Division 1 of Part 5 of the new Credit**  
30 **Code**

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1 Subdivision B of Division 1 of Part 5 of the new Credit Code, as  
2 inserted by [item 20 of](#) Schedule 2 to the amending Act, applies in  
3 relation to credit contracts and mortgages entered into on or after the  
4 commencement of that [Scheduleitem](#).

#### 5 **16 Subsections 88(1) and (2) of the new Credit Code**

6 The amendment of subsections 88(1) and (2) of the new Credit Code  
7 made by [item 21 of](#) Schedule 2 to the amending Act applies to credit  
8 contracts and mortgages entered into before, on or after the  
9 commencement of that [Scheduleitem](#).

#### 10 **17 Subsections 88(7A) and (7B) of the new Credit Code**

11 Subsections 88(7A) and (7B) of the new Credit Code, as inserted by  
12 [item 22 of](#) Schedule 2 to the amending Act, apply in relation to credit  
13 contracts and mortgages entered into on or after the commencement of  
14 that [Scheduleitem](#).

#### 15 **18 Section @93A of the new Credit Code**

16 Section @93A of the new Credit Code, as added by [item 23 of](#)  
17 Schedule 2 to the amending Act, applies in relation to credit contracts  
18 and mortgages entered into on or after the commencement of that  
19 [Scheduleitem](#).

#### 20 **19 Section @185A of the new Credit Code**

21 Section @185A of the new Credit Code, as inserted by [item 26 of](#)  
22 Schedule 2 to the amending Act, applies in relation to credit contracts  
23 entered into on or after the commencement of that [Scheduleitem](#).

### 24 **Part 4—Schedule 3 (small amount credit contracts)** 25 **to the amending Act**

#### 26 **20 Sections 124C and 133CD of the National Credit Act**

27 Sections 124C and 133CD of the National Credit Act, as inserted by  
28 Schedule 3 to the amending Act, apply in relation to small amount  
29 credit contracts entered into on or after the commencement of that  
30 Schedule.

1 **Part 5—Schedule 4 (caps on costs etc. for credit**  
2 **contracts) to the amending Act**

3 **21 Sections 23A, 31A, 39A and 39B and subsection 114(1A)**  
4 **of the new Credit Code**

5 Sections 23A, 31A, 39A and 39B and subsection 114(1A) of the new  
6 Credit Code, as inserted by Schedule 4 to the amending Act, apply in  
7 relation to small amount credit contracts entered into on or after the  
8 commencement of that Schedule.

9 **21A Subsection 32A(1A) and paragraphs 111(1)(k) and (2)(fb)**  
10 **of the new Credit Code**

11 Subsection 32A(1A) and paragraphs 111(1)(k) and (2)(fb) of the new  
12 Credit Code, as inserted by Schedule 4 to the amending Act, apply in  
13 relation to credit contracts entered into on or after the commencement  
14 of that Schedule.

15 **Part 6—Schedule 5 (consumer leases) to the**  
16 **amending Act**

17 **22 Subsection 199(2) of the National Credit Act**

18 The amendments of subsection 199(2) of the National Credit Act made  
19 by Schedule 5 to the amending Act apply in relation to consumer leases  
20 entered into on or after the commencement of that Schedule.

21 **23 Part 11 of the new Credit Code**

22 The amendments in relation to Part 11 of the new Credit Code made by  
23 Schedule 5 to the amending Act apply in relation to consumer leases  
24 entered into on or after the commencement of that Schedule.  
25

1  
2 **Schedule 7—Voting at AGMs of public**  
3 **companies**  
4

5 ***Corporations Act 2001***

6 **1 Subsection 250R(5)**

7 Repeal the subsection, substitute:

8 (5) However, a person (the *voter*) described in subsection (4) may cast  
9 a vote on the resolution as a proxy if the vote is not cast on behalf  
10 of a person described in subsection (4) and either:

11 (a) the voter is appointed as a proxy by writing that specifies the  
12 way the proxy is to vote on the resolution; or

13 (b) the voter is the chair of the meeting and the appointment of  
14 the chair as proxy:

15 (i) does not specify the way the proxy is to vote on the  
16 resolution; and

17 (ii) expressly authorises the chair to exercise the proxy even  
18 if the resolution is connected directly or indirectly with  
19 the remuneration of a member of the key management  
20 personnel for the company or, if the company is part of  
21 a consolidated entity, for the entity.