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#### An Act to amend the Welfare Act 1989.

The Parliament of the Cook Islands enacts as follows—

(17 June 2019)

- 1 **Title**  
This Act is the Welfare Amendment Bill 2019.
- 2 **Commencement**  
This Act comes into force, or is deemed to have come into force, as the case requires, on 1 July 2019.
- 3 **Application**  
For all purposes, this Act applies on and after 1 July 2019 and despite section 2 (which relates to commencement) any question of law must be decided accordingly.
- 4 **Principal Act amended**  
This Act amends the Welfare Act 1989 (the **principal Act**).
- 5 **Section 4 amended (Child benefit)**  
In section 4(1), replace “fourteen years” with “16 years”.
- 6 **Section 7 amended (Period for which child benefit payable)**  
In section 7(1) and (4), replace “fourteen years” with “16 years”.

**7 Section 19 amended (Interpretation)**

- (1) In section 19(1), definition of **capitalised value**, replace “10 years” with “16 years”.
- (2) In section 19(1), definition of **child benefit**, replace “10 years” with “16 years”.

**8 Section 27 amended (Amount of advances)**

In section 27(2), replace “14 years” with “16 years”.

**9 Validations**

For all purposes, the references in the definitions of **capitalised value** and **child benefit** in section 19(1) to “10 years” must be read as if—

- (a) during the period commencing on 1 January 2006 and ending with the expiry of 30 September 2018, they were references to “12 years”; and
- (b) in the period beginning on 1 October 2018 and expiring on the commencement of this Act, they were references to “14 years”.

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This Act is administered by the Ministry of Internal Affairs.  
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