



# Senate Daily Summary

## Wednesday, 11 May 2011

The Senate met from 9.30 am until 7.49 pm

### Legislation

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For [bills and related documents](#)

#### Bills considered

The following bill was introduced

- ❑ Midwife Professional Indemnity Legislation Amendment Bill 2011 [passed by the House of Representatives on 11 May 2011]

The following bill was debated

- ❑ Sex and Age Discrimination Legislation Amendment Bill 2010—second reading agreed to [[first speaker](#)] and committee of the whole commenced—4 Opposition [amendments](#) to be determined [further amendments remain to be considered]

The following bills were passed

- ❑ Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Enrolment and Prisoner Voting) Bill 2010 [The bill will now be assented to]
- ❑ Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Provisional Voting) Bill 2011—2 Senator Xenophon amendments agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the [amendments](#) made by the Senate]
- ❑ Therapeutic Goods Legislation Amendment (Copyright) Bill 2011 [The bill will now be assented to]

#### Notice of motion to introduce a private senator's bill

- ❑ Public Service Amendment (Payments in Special Circumstances) Bill 2011—notice given by Senator Xenophon

#### Message from the House of Representatives

- ❑ Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2010—agreeing to the amendments made by the Senate [The bill will now be assented to]

## Committees

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[For scheduled public committee hearings](#)

[For committee reports](#)

### Reports tabled

- Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee—Review of the 2009-10 Defence Materiel Organisation major projects report [[report](#)] [a motion to take note of the report was agreed to]
- Scrutiny of Bills Committee—[Alert Digest No. 4](#) of 2011 and [4th report](#) of 2011 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds] [a [motion](#) to take note of the report was agreed to]
- Treaties Joint Committee—116th report—Treaties tabled on 24 and 25 November 2010, 9 February and 1 March 2011 and treaties referred on 16 November (Part 3) [[report](#)] [a [motion](#) to take note of the report was agreed to]

### Documents tabled

- Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee—Wild Rivers (Environmental Management) Bill 2011—Correction
- Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee—Draft budget estimates for the Australian National Audit Office for 2011-12—[Statement](#)

### New inquiries

The Senate referred the following matters to committees:

- [Funding of political parties](#) and election campaigns—Electoral Matters Joint Committee—to report by 30 September 2011
- [International child abduction](#) to and from Australia—Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee—to report by 31 October 2011

### Proposed reference

The Senate did not agree to refer [matters](#) relating to impacts of coal seam gas mines to the Environment and Communications References Committee.

### Meetings during the sitting of the Senate

The Senate authorised the following meetings to be held while the Senate is sitting:

- Corporations and Financial Services Joint Committee—12 May 2011 from 11.30 am—private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1)
- Environment and Communications Legislation Committee—12 May 2011—private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1)
- Environment and Communications References Committee—12 May 2011—private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1)
- Migration Joint Committee—15 June 2011 from 10.30 am to noon—Multiculturalism in Australia—public hearing

### Reporting dates extended

The Senate extended reporting dates for the following inquiries:

- Finance and Public Administration References Committee—Administration of health practitioner registration by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency—to report by 3 June 2011
- Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee—*Water Act 2007* provisions relating to the development of a Basin Plan—to report by 6 June 2011
- Senators' Interests Committee—Draft code of conduct for senators—to report by 7 July 2011

### Notices of motion

To extend reporting deadlines

- Community Affairs References Committee— Commonwealth contribution to former forced adoption policies—to report by 21 November 2011

To hold meetings when the Senate is sitting

- National Broadband Network Joint Committee—12 May 2011 from 5.00 pm—private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1)

To refer matters to committees

- Any bills introduced into the House of Representatives after 12 May and before 2 June 2011 that contain provisions commencing on or before 1 July 2011—Committees—to report by 14 June 2011—notice given by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Senator Ludwig)

### Membership

The Senate agreed that Senator Bob Brown replace Senator Ludlam on the Environment and Communications References Committee for the committee's inquiry into the status, health and sustainability of the koala population, and that Senator Ludlam be appointed as a participating member of the committee.

Messages from the House of Representatives were reported advising of [various changes](#) to the membership of joint committees.

## Documents

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### Delegated legislation

See [Disallowance Alert](#) for a complete list of notices of motion to disallow (and outcomes)

- [Clerk's documents](#) were tabled [legislative instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]

### Orders for the production of documents—Orders with continuing effect

Departmental and agency appointments and vacancies

A letter of advice for the Defence portfolio was tabled [Lists of appointments made and existing vacancies are [required to be tabled](#) 7 days before the commencement of budget, supplementary budget and additional estimates hearings]

## Departmental and agency grants

Letters of advice for the Defence portfolio and the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio were tabled [Lists of all grants approved are [required to be tabled](#) 7 days before the commencement of budget, supplementary budget and additional estimates hearings]

## Documents tabled

- [Government documents](#) [[and considered](#)]
- Australian parliamentary delegations–
  - Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum–19th annual meeting–Ulaanbaatar–22 to 27 January 2011–Report [a [motion](#) to take note of the report was agreed to]
  - Bhutan and Mongolia–9 to 21 July 2010–Report [a [motion](#) to take note of the report was agreed to]
- Response to a Senate resolution about credit card surcharge–from the Assistant Treasurer (Mr Shorten) [resolution agreed to on [17 November 2010](#)]
- [A petition](#) and a petitioning document

## Other business

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[Questions without notice and issues arising during question time–first question](#)  
[Matters of public interest debate–first speaker](#)  
[Adjournment debate–first speaker](#)

## Motions agreed to

- [25th anniversary](#) of the Chernobyl disaster–moved by Senator Bilyk
- [Asylum seeker agreement](#) with Malaysia–moved by Senator Hanson-Young
- [Israeli boycott](#)–moved by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Abetz)
- [Palestine and Israel](#)–moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)

## Motion negatived

- [Imposition of an efficiency dividend](#) on cultural institutions–moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)

## Matter of public importance discussed

- [The Budget](#) and cost of living pressures–proposed by Senator Fifield [[first speaker](#)]

## Death of former Deputy Clerk

The President informed the Senate of the death, on 10 May 2011, of Herbert (Bert) Charles Nicholls, former Deputy Clerk of the Senate from 1983 to 1987 and officer of the Department of the Senate from 1951 to 1987.

## Variation to hours of meeting

The Senate [agreed](#) to vary the hours of meeting and routine of business for 14 to 16 June and 21 to 23 June 2011 to enable valedictory statements to be made for retiring senators.

