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1 MEETING OF SENATE

The Senate met at 9.30 am. The President (Senator the Honourable Alan Ferguson) took the chair and read prayers.

2 GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

The following government documents were tabled:

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission—Telecommunications reports for 2006-07—Report 1: Telecommunications competitive safeguards; Report 2: Changes in the prices paid for telecommunications services in Australia.

Attorney-General's Department—Report—Review of sections 47J and 110AA of the *Copyright Act 1968*—Copyright exceptions for private copying of photographs and films, 2008.

Australian National University—Report for 2007.

Advisory Panel on the Marketing in Australia of Infant Formula—Reports for the period July 2004 to June 2007.

Treaties—*Multilateral*—Attachment to explanatory statement 2 of 2008—Amendment, adopted 1 October 2007, to Annex 1 of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) International Convention Against Doping in Sport of 19 October 2005.

3 ORDER OF BUSINESS—REARRANGEMENT

The Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig) moved—That intervening business be postponed till after consideration of business of the Senate order of the day no. 2, relating to the reference of bills to committees.

Question put and passed.

4 COMMITTEES—REFERENCES

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motions of Senator Ellison—
No. 1—

(1) That:

- (a) the Same-Sex Relationships (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws—Superannuation) Bill 2008 be referred to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee for inquiry and report; and
- (b) any related bill or bills that may be introduced to give effect to the recommendations of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's report *Same Sex: Same Entitlements*, dated May 2007, also be referred to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee for inquiry and report together with the following matters:
 - (i) the definition of 'couple relationship',
 - (ii) empirical evidence from the states concerning the existence, recognition and relative numbers of interdependent relationships, other than de facto (whether heterosexual or same-sex) and marital relationships,
 - (iii) whether the definition of 'couple relationship' should be amended to incorporate other interdependent relationships and, if so, whether the definitions should be broadened to include those relationships or whether a separate definition is required,

- (iv) the fiscal implications of the statutory recognition of other interdependent relationships for superannuation and taxation purposes,
 - (v) the definitions of ‘child’ and ‘child of a couple relationship’,
 - (vi) the legal and fiscal implications of the definitions referred to in (v), particularly as they relate to the rights, obligations and liabilities of co-parents (i.e., the parent in a couple relationship that does not have a biological connection to a child of that relationship), and
 - (vii) all other matters considered necessary by the committee.
- (2) That the committee is not to conclude its consideration of the matter contained in subparagraph (1)(a) until it has concluded its consideration of the matters in subparagraph (1)(b).
- (3) That the committee must hear evidence, inter alia, from:
- (a) the Attorney-General’s Department;
 - (b) the Department of Finance and Deregulation;
 - (c) the Relationship Registries of Tasmania, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory;
 - (d) the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission; and
 - (e) the Law Council of Australia (Family Law Section).

No. 2—

- (1) That the Tax Laws Amendment (Medicare Levy Surcharge Thresholds) Bill 2008 be referred to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report not before 26 August 2008, together with the following matters:
- (a) the impact of changes to the thresholds on the number of Australians with private health insurance (PHI), including an examination of how many will abandon their policies as a result and how many will not take up PHI in the future;
 - (b) the modelling underpinning the decision and the veracity of that modelling;
 - (c) the anticipated impact on PHI premiums and PHI products offered;
 - (d) the impact of the change on the cost of living and the consumer price index;
 - (e) including the threshold, PHI rebate and lifetime health cover on increasing PHI membership;
 - (f) the anticipated impact of changes to the threshold on:
 - (i) the public hospital system including waiting lists and the financial requirements of state governments,
 - (ii) the ongoing viability of PHI, and
 - (iii) private hospitals.
- (2) That the inquiry hear evidence in all capital cities and from, inter alia, the private health insurance sector about the impact of the measures in the bill on the industry and on the public hospital system.

No. 3—

- (1) That the National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical and Other Benefits—Cost Recovery) Bill 2008 be referred to the Community Affairs Committee for inquiry and report not before 18 August 2008, together with the following matters:

- (a) the impact of the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS) cost recovery on:
 - (i) patients' timely and affordable access to medicines,
 - (ii) the Australian pharmaceutical industry,
 - (iii) new products and innovation, and
 - (iv) the independence of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee;
 - (b) cost recovery mechanisms in other countries;
 - (c) how cost recovery will improve the timeliness and effectiveness of the current PBS process for listing new medicines; and
 - (d) the modelling and consultation underpinning the decision.
- (2) That, in conducting its inquiry, the committee hear evidence, inter alia, from the pharmaceutical industry, generic medicines industry, consumer and patient health groups, the Department of Health and Ageing, the PBS Evaluation Units and the Australian Medical Association and other medical bodies.

No. 4—

- (1) That the following bills:
- Tax Laws Amendment (Luxury Car Tax) Bill 2008
 - A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition—General) Amendment Bill 2008
 - A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition—Customs) Amendment Bill 2008 and
 - A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition—Excise) Amendment Bill 2008,

be referred to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report not before 26 August 2008, together with the following matters:

- (a) the incidence of the luxury car tax (LCT) and the effect of the proposed increase in the LCT rate on rural and regional communities, small business families and tourism operators;
- (b) the effect of the LCT increase on the prices of vehicles, the affordability of motor vehicles, the cost of living, and the consumer price index (CPI);
- (c) the expected impact of the increase in the LCT rate on vehicle demand and the likely consequences for government revenues including from the LCT, goods and services tax (GST) and stamp duty;
- (d) the growing incidence of the LCT over time and the adequacy of current arrangements for indexation of the LCT threshold, in comparison with alternative measures including the CPI, average weekly earnings and the increase in the retail price of motor vehicles;
- (e) the rationale for taxing 'luxury' cars at a higher rate than other goods and services;
- (f) the effect of the LCT and the proposed increase in the LCT rate on Australian vehicle manufacturers and vehicle importers and distributors;
- (g) the overall taxation burden on ownership and operation of motor vehicles including customs duty, GST, LCT stamp duty and excise on fuel;

- (h) the effect of the LCT and the proposed increase in the LCT rate on the adoption of vehicle safety features and environmental technologies; and
- (i) the extent to which the LCT is viewed as a non-tariff barrier by other car exporting countries.

(2) That:

- (a) as a minimum, the committee hold hearings in Melbourne and Adelaide and hear evidence, inter alia, from Australia's vehicle manufacturers, importers and distributors as well as from the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries, the Australian Automobile Association, the Motor Trades Association of Australia, the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce, the Motor Trades Association of Queensland and the tourism industry; and
- (b) the committee also take into account submissions to, and recommendations of, the Bracks' Review of Australia's Automotive Industry.

No. 5—

- (1) That the Excise Legislation Amendment (Condensate) Bill 2008 and the Excise Tariff Amendment (Condensate) Bill 2008 be referred to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report not before 26 August 2008, together with the following matters:
 - (a) the impact of the changes on retail prices of domestic gas and electricity in Western Australia, and any consequent effect on consumer prices;
 - (b) the impact of the decision on the industry generally and on the exploration for petroleum products in Australia; and
 - (c) the impact of the decision, and the decision-making process, on domestic and international investment confidence in Australia.
- (2) That the committee must conduct hearings in Western Australia and hear evidence from, inter alia, industry bodies and joint venture partners on the North West Shelf.

No. 6—

- (1) That the National Fuelwatch (Empowering Consumers) Bill 2008 and the National Fuelwatch (Empowering Consumers) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008 be referred to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report not before 29 September 2008, together with the following matters:
 - (a) the impact of the proposed Fuelwatch scheme on the price consumers will pay for motor fuel (including unleaded petrol, diesel and LPG) in metropolitan areas, regional centres and rural Australia;
 - (b) the economic benefits and costs of the proposed Fuelwatch scheme to consumers in metropolitan areas, regional centres and rural Australia;
 - (c) other economic costs of the proposed Fuelwatch scheme, including the compliance costs of the scheme for industry, particularly independent retailers;
 - (d) the impact of the proposed Fuelwatch scheme on competition between motor fuel retailers and the operation and viability of independent motor fuel retailers;
 - (e) intraday price volatility in the retail market, established price cycles in each state and territory, and consumer awareness of price cycles;

- (f) the impact of Fuelwatch on discounting, as well as the amplitude and duration of price cycles, including any penalties that will apply to motor fuel retailers for not fixing prices for 24 hour periods;
 - (g) the potential use under the Fuelwatch scheme of sophisticated pricing strategies by motor fuel retailers who have more than one retail outlet, and how they may take advantage of the 24 hour rule;
 - (h) independent analysis of the overall economic benefits and costs of the proposed Fuelwatch scheme;
 - (i) independent analysis of the differences in motor fuel prices between Western Australia and other Australian states and territories, with particular reference to volumetric or consumption-weighted prices; and
 - (j) the legal basis for the legislation.
- (2) That, in conducting its inquiry, the committee:
- (a) hear evidence in all capital cities and in such major rural and regional centres as may be determined by the committee; and
 - (b) hear evidence, inter alia, from independent retailers, motoring bodies with knowledge of the retail motor fuel market, business organisations with an interest in motor fuel prices and independent think tanks and economists who have knowledge of retail pricing arrangements in the motor fuel industry.

No. 7—That the provisions of Schedules 1 and 2 of the Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 3) Bill 2008 be referred to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report not before 18 August 2008.

No. 8—That the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Political Donations and Other Measures) Bill 2008 be referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters for inquiry and report on 30 June 2009 in conjunction with the committee's inquiry into the 2007 Federal Election.

—and on the amendments moved by Senators Bartlett and Nettle in respect of motion no. 1—

At the end of subparagraph (1)(a), add “by 24 June 2008”.

Omit paragraph (2).

Debate resumed.

The question was divided—

Question—That the amendments in respect of motion no. 1 be agreed to—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 30

Senators—

Allison	Evans	McLucas	Siewert
Bartlett	Forshaw	Milne	Stephens
Bishop	Hogg	Moore	Sterle
Brown, Bob	Hurley	Murray	Stott Despoja
Brown, Carol	Kirk	Nettle	Webber (Teller)
Campbell	Lundy	O'Brien	Wortley
Collins	Marshall	Polley	
Crossin	McEwen	Sherry	

NOES, 35

Senators—			
Abetz	Chapman	Fifield	Parry (Teller)
Adams	Colbeck	Fisher	Patterson
Barnett	Coonan	Johnston	Payne
Bernardi	Cormann	Kemp	Ronaldson
Birmingham	Eggleston	Macdonald, Ian	Scullion
Boswell	Ellison	Macdonald, Sandy	Troeth
Boyce	Ferguson	Mason	Trood
Brandis	Fielding	McGauran	Watson
Bushby	Fierravanti-Wells	Minchin	

Question negatived.

Senator Parry moved the following amendment in respect of motion no. 1:

Omit paragraph (2), substitute:

- (2) That the committee is to report on 30 September 2008 or after the consideration of any related bills mentioned in paragraph (1)(b), whichever is the sooner.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put and passed.

Question—That motion no. 1, as amended, be agreed to—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 35

Senators—			
Abetz	Chapman	Fifield	Parry (Teller)
Adams	Colbeck	Fisher	Patterson
Barnett	Coonan	Johnston	Payne
Bernardi	Cormann	Kemp	Ronaldson
Birmingham	Eggleston	Macdonald, Ian	Scullion
Boswell	Ellison	Macdonald, Sandy	Troeth
Boyce	Ferguson	Mason	Trood
Brandis	Fielding	McGauran	Watson
Bushby	Fierravanti-Wells	Minchin	

NOES, 31

Senators—			
Allison	Evans	McEwen	Sherry
Bartlett	Forshaw	McLucas	Siewert
Bishop	Hogg	Milne	Stephens
Brown, Bob	Hurley	Moore	Sterle
Brown, Carol	Hutchins	Murray	Stott Despoja
Campbell	Kirk	Nettle	Webber (Teller)
Collins	Lundy	O'Brien	Wortley
Crossin	Marshall	Polley	

Question agreed to.

Question—That motion no. 2 be agreed to—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 35

Senators—

Abetz	Chapman	Fifield	Parry (Teller)
Adams	Colbeck	Fisher	Patterson
Barnett	Coonan	Johnston	Payne
Bernardi	Cormann	Kemp	Ronaldson
Birmingham	Eggleston	Macdonald, Ian	Scullion
Boswell	Ellison	Macdonald, Sandy	Troeth
Boyce	Ferguson	Mason	Trood
Brandis	Fielding	McGauran	Watson
Bushby	Fierravanti-Wells	Minchin	

NOES, 31

Senators—

Allison	Evans	McEwen	Sherry
Bartlett	Forshaw	McLucas	Siewert
Bishop	Hogg	Milne	Stephens
Brown, Bob	Hurley	Moore	Sterle
Brown, Carol	Hutchins	Murray	Stott Despoja
Campbell	Kirk	Nettle	Webber (Teller)
Collins	Lundy	O'Brien	Wortley
Crossin	Marshall	Polley	

Question agreed to.

Question—That motion no. 3 be agreed to—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 39

Senators—

Abetz	Bushby	Fifield	Parry (Teller)
Adams	Chapman	Fisher	Patterson
Allison	Colbeck	Johnston	Payne
Barnett	Coonan	Kemp	Ronaldson
Bartlett	Cormann	Macdonald, Ian	Scullion
Bernardi	Eggleston	Macdonald, Sandy	Stott Despoja
Birmingham	Ellison	Mason	Troeth
Boswell	Ferguson	McGauran	Trood
Boyce	Fielding	Minchin	Watson
Brandis	Fierravanti-Wells	Murray	

NOES, 27

Senators—

Bishop	Forshaw	McEwen	Sherry
Brown, Bob	Hogg	McLucas	Siewert
Brown, Carol	Hurley	Milne	Stephens
Campbell	Hutchins	Moore	Sterle
Collins	Kirk	Nettle	Webber (Teller)
Crossin	Lundy	O'Brien	Wortley
Evans	Marshall	Polley	

Question agreed to.

Question—That motion no. 4 be agreed to—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 39

Senators—

Abetz	Bushby	Fifield	Parry (Teller)
Adams	Chapman	Fisher	Patterson
Allison	Colbeck	Johnston	Payne
Barnett	Coonan	Kemp	Ronaldson
Bartlett	Cormann	Macdonald, Ian	Scullion
Bernardi	Eggleston	Macdonald, Sandy	Stott Despoja
Birmingham	Ellison	Mason	Troeth
Boswell	Ferguson	McGauran	Trood
Boyce	Fielding	Minchin	Watson
Brandis	Fierravanti-Wells	Murray	

NOES, 27

Senators—

Bishop	Forshaw	McEwen	Sherry
Brown, Bob	Hogg	McLucas	Siewert
Brown, Carol	Hurley	Milne	Stephens
Campbell	Hutchins	Moore	Sterle
Collins	Kirk	Nettle	Webber (Teller)
Crossin	Lundy	O'Brien	Wortley
Evans	Marshall	Polley	

Question agreed to.

Question—That motion no. 5 be agreed to—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 39

Senators—

Abetz	Bushby	Fifield	Parry (Teller)
Adams	Chapman	Fisher	Patterson
Allison	Colbeck	Johnston	Payne
Barnett	Coonan	Kemp	Ronaldson
Bartlett	Cormann	Macdonald, Ian	Scullion
Bernardi	Eggleston	Macdonald, Sandy	Stott Despoja
Birmingham	Ellison	Mason	Troeth
Boswell	Ferguson	McGauran	Trood
Boyce	Fielding	Minchin	Watson
Brandis	Fierravanti-Wells	Murray	

NOES, 27

Senators—

Bishop	Forshaw	McEwen	Sherry
Brown, Bob	Hogg	McLucas	Siewert
Brown, Carol	Hurley	Milne	Stephens
Campbell	Hutchins	Moore	Sterle
Collins	Kirk	Nettle	Webber (Teller)
Crossin	Lundy	O'Brien	Wortley
Evans	Marshall	Polley	

Question agreed to.

Question—That motion no. 6 be agreed to—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 43

Senators—

Abetz	Bushby	Fisher	Parry (Teller)
Adams	Chapman	Johnston	Patterson
Allison	Colbeck	Kemp	Payne
Barnett	Coonan	Macdonald, Ian	Ronaldson
Bartlett	Cormann	Macdonald, Sandy	Scullion
Bernardi	Eggleston	Mason	Siewert
Birmingham	Ellison	McGauran	Stott Despoja
Boswell	Ferguson	Milne	Troeth
Boyce	Fielding	Minchin	Trood
Brandis	Fierravanti-Wells	Murray	Watson
Brown, Bob	Fifield	Nettle	

NOES, 23

Senators—

Bishop	Forshaw	Marshall	Sherry
Brown, Carol	Hogg	McEwen	Stephens
Campbell	Hurley	McLucas	Sterle
Collins	Hutchins	Moore	Webber (Teller)
Crossin	Kirk	O'Brien	Wortley
Evans	Lundy	Polley	

Question agreed to.

Question—That motion no. 7 be agreed to—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 39

Senators—

Abetz	Bushby	Fifield	Parry (Teller)
Adams	Chapman	Fisher	Patterson
Allison	Colbeck	Johnston	Payne
Barnett	Coonan	Kemp	Ronaldson
Bartlett	Cormann	Macdonald, Ian	Scullion
Bernardi	Eggleston	Macdonald, Sandy	Stott Despoja
Birmingham	Ellison	Mason	Troeth
Boswell	Ferguson	McGauran	Trood
Boyce	Fielding	Minchin	Watson
Brandis	Fierravanti-Wells	Murray	

NOES, 27

Senators—

Bishop	Forshaw	McEwen	Sherry
Brown, Bob	Hogg	McLucas	Siewert
Brown, Carol	Hurley	Milne	Stephens
Campbell	Hutchins	Moore	Sterle
Collins	Kirk	Nettle	Webber (Teller)
Crossin	Lundy	O'Brien	Wortley
Evans	Marshall	Polley	

Question agreed to.

The Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding), by leave, moved the following amendment in respect of motion no. 8:

Omit “by 30 June 2009”, substitute “before November 2008”.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put and negatived. All Australian Greens senators, by leave, recorded their votes for the ayes.

Question—That motion no. 8 be agreed to—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 34

Senators—

Abetz	Chapman	Fisher	Patterson
Adams	Colbeck	Johnston	Payne
Barnett	Coonan	Kemp	Ronaldson
Bernardi	Cormann	Macdonald, Ian	Scullion
Birmingham	Eggleston	Macdonald, Sandy	Troeth
Boswell	Ellison	Mason	Trood
Boyce	Ferguson	McGauran	Watson
Brandis	Fierravanti-Wells	Minchin	
Bushby	Fifield	Parry (Teller)	

NOES, 32

Senators—

Allison	Evans	Marshall	Polley
Bartlett	Fielding	McEwen	Sherry
Bishop	Forshaw	McLucas	Siewert
Brown, Bob	Hogg	Milne	Stephens
Brown, Carol	Hurley	Moore	Sterle
Campbell	Hutchins	Murray	Stott Despoja
Collins	Kirk	Nettle	Webber (Teller)
Crossin	Lundy	O'Brien	Wortley

Question agreed to.

5 **DENTAL BENEFITS BILL 2008**

DENTAL BENEFITS (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 2008

Messages from the House of Representatives were reported transmitting for the concurrence of the Senate the following bills:

Message no. 99, dated 17 June 2008—A Bill for an Act to provide a framework for the provision of dental benefits, and for related purposes.

Message no. 100, dated 17 June 2008—A Bill for an Act to deal with consequential matters in connection with the *Dental Benefits Act 2008*, and for other purposes.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing (Senator McLucas) moved—That these bills may proceed without formalities, may be taken together and be now read a first time.

Question put and passed.

Bills read a first time.

Senator McLucas moved—That these bills be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

At 12.45 pm: Debate was interrupted while the Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig) was speaking.

6 **MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

Matters of public interest were discussed.

Suspension of sitting: On the motion of the Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig) the sitting of the Senate was suspended at 1.57 pm till 2 pm.

At 2 pm—

7 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were answered.

8 MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF ANSWER

Senator Abetz moved—That the Senate take note of the answer given by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship (Senator Evans) to a question without notice asked by Senator Crossin today relating to the budget surplus.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

9 NOTICES

Senator Colbeck: To move on the next day of sitting—That Health Insurance (Dental Services) Amendment and Repeal Determination 2008, made under subsection 3C(1) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*, be disallowed.

The Chair of the Finance and Public Administration Committee (Senator Polley): To move on the next day of sitting—That the Finance and Public Administration Committee be authorised to hold a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Friday, 20 June 2008, from 10 am to 12.30 pm, to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (2008 Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2008. (*general business notice of motion no. 111*)

The Chair of the Economics Committee (Senator Hurley): To move on the next day of sitting—That the Economics Committee be authorised to hold an in camera hearing during the sitting of the Senate on Friday, 20 June 2008. (*general business notice of motion no. 112*)

The Chair of the Economics Committee (Senator Hurley): To move on the next day of sitting—That the Economics Committee be authorised to hold a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Friday, 20 June 2008, to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the Tax Laws Amendment (Budget Measures) Bill 2008. (*general business notice of motion no. 113*)

The Chair of the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee (Senator McEwen): To move on the next day of sitting—That the time for the presentation of the report of the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee on sexualisation of children in the media be extended to 25 June 2008. (*general business notice of motion no. 114*)

The Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison) and Senator Kemp: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

- (a) recognises that there is a growing body of scientific research demonstrating that children who receive a comprehensive, sequential music instruction gain many academic and social benefits, including findings that:

- (i) playing music:
 - (A) builds or modifies neural pathways related to spatial-temporal reasoning tasks, which are crucial for higher brain functions like complex maths and science,
 - (B) improves concentration, memory and self expression,
 - (C) increases reasoning capacity, time management and the ability to think in the abstract, and
 - (D) improves the ability to think,
- (ii) learning music helps underperforming students improve, and
- (iii) music students learn critical teamwork and social skills;
- (b) appreciates the positive link between the well-being of Australia's youth and their appreciation and active participation in music activities;
- (c) understands the special benefits that active music making has for at risk, vulnerable and Indigenous children;
- (d) acknowledges the significant contribution and effort that people from all walks of life make to their local communities through music and arts initiatives, particularly those that support Australia's youth;
- (e) concedes that many Australian children, including the overwhelming majority of children attending state schools nationally, do not have access to a comprehensive, sequential music instruction as part of their education;
- (f) highlights the progress in measuring and enunciating the current scarcity of school music education, through:
 - (i) the *Trends in School Music Education Provision in Australia* report,
 - (ii) the National Review of School Music Education, and
 - (iii) the National Music Workshop;
- (g) calls on all governments nationally, through the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs and the Cultural Ministers Council to actively support and encourage:
 - (i) an increased presence and heightened importance of learning music within the various education curricula throughout Australia, and
 - (ii) a closing of the gap between school sectors on access to music education, and
 - (iii) the inclusion of meaningful and effective instruction on the delivery of school music within qualifications for school teachers; and
- (h) calls on the Government to.
 - (i) assist all school systems nationally in their ability to deliver a comprehensive, sequential music instruction for all Australian children in the years from Kindergarten to Year 10,
 - (ii) increase funding for school music education programs, and
 - (iii) include the delivery of a comprehensive, sequential music instruction in the development of the national curriculum. (*general business notice of motion no. 115*)

Senators Stott Despoja and Nettle: To move on the next day of sitting—

- (1) That so much of standing orders be suspended as would prevent this resolution having effect.

- (2) That the Pregnancy Counselling (Truth in Advertising) Bill 2006 be restored to the *Notice Paper* and that consideration of the bill resume at the stage reached in the 41st Parliament.
- (3) That the bill be restored to the *Notice Paper* in the names of Senators Stott Despoja and Nettle. (*general business notice of motion no. 116*)

Senator Abetz: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

- (a) notes:
 - (i) the devastating impact that marine pests have on our marine environment and valuable fisheries sector,
 - (ii) the particular damage that has been caused across Australia by the Northern Pacific Seastar (*Asterias amurensis*),
 - (iii) the support that the previous Howard Government gave to the pilot study into management of the Northern Pacific Seastar and the National System for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pest Incursions in Tasmania, and
 - (iv) the critical need to act to control the Northern Pacific Seastar before spawning begins in July;
- (b) condemns the Rudd Labor Government for refusing to fund this urgent action; and
- (c) calls on the Government to urgently reconsider its position and fund the control program. (*general business notice of motion no. 117*)

The Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison): To move on the next day of sitting—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to restrict approvals of new power stations to those operating within environmentally responsible emissions limits, and for related purposes. ***Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Control of Power Station Emissions) Bill 2008***. (*general business notice of motion no. 118*)

Senators Ellison, Murray and Sandy Macdonald: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

- (a) notes the statements by the Government that it is gravely concerned about the deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe and that it strongly condemns the intimidation and terrorising of opposition leaders, civil society and ordinary Zimbabweans;
- (b) further notes the Government's statement that the Zimbabwean Government's suspension of humanitarian non-government organisation activity in Zimbabwe is immoral and represents a callous move by the Mugabe regime to use food security as a political weapon against its own people;
- (c) condemns the expulsion by the Zimbabwean Government of independent observers or restrictions on domestic observers for the forthcoming election, and further urges the Government to intensify its efforts, including with other concerned nations and organisations, to ensure that the forthcoming election in Zimbabwe is as fair and democratic as possible; and
- (d) urges the Government to use as many international bodies, including the United Nations, to put pressure on the Zimbabwean Government to return Zimbabwe to a democratic state with the rule of law and a civil society. (*general business notice of motion no. 119*)

Senator Barnett: To move 15 sitting days after today—That item 16525 in Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the Health Insurance (General Medical Services Table) Regulations 2007, as contained in Select Legislative Instrument 2007 No. 355 and made under the *Health Insurance Act 1973*, be disallowed.

The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Wortley): To move 15 sitting days after today—

No. 1—That the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Amendment Order 2007 (No. 1), made under subsection 7(1) of the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994*, be disallowed.

No. 2—That the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Amendment Instrument No. 1 (Trial Protocols) 2008, made under subsection 32(1) of the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Act 1992*, be disallowed.

No. 3—That Instrument No. CASA 222/07, made under regulation 208 of the Civil Aviation Regulations 1988, be disallowed.

No. 4—That Instrument No. CASA 364/07, made under regulation 208 of the Civil Aviation Regulations 1988, be disallowed.

No. 5—That Instrument No. CASA 445/07, made under regulation 208 of the Civil Aviation Regulations 1988, be disallowed.

No. 6—That Instrument No. CASA 450/07, made under regulation 208 of the Civil Aviation Regulations 1988, be disallowed.

No. 7—That Listable Chemicals Product (Home Swimming Pool and Spa Products) Standard 2007, made under section 56D of the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994*, be disallowed.

No. 8—That Listable Chemicals Product (Joint Health Products for Dogs and Horses) Standard 2007, made under section 56D of the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994*, be disallowed.

No. 9—That the Migration Amendment Regulations 2007 (No. 14), as contained in Select Legislative Instrument 2007 No. 356 and made under the *Migration Act 1958*, be disallowed.

Senator Wortley, by leave, made a statement relating to the notices of motion.

Senators Troeth and Humphries: To move on 23 June 2008—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to appoint an independent reviewer of terrorism laws, and for related purposes. *Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Laws Bill 2008 [No. 2]*. (general business notice of motion no. 120)

10 SELECTION OF BILLS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT NO. 5 OF 2008

The Chair of the Selection of Bills Committee (Senator O'Brien) tabled the following report:

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

REPORT NO. 5 OF 2008

1. The committee met in private session on Tuesday, 17 June 2008 at 12.49 pm.
2. The committee resolved to recommend—That—
 - (a) the Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (2008 Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2008 be *referred immediately* to the Finance and Public Administration Committee for inquiry and report by 24 June 2008;

- (b) the Passenger Movement Charge Amendment Bill 2008 be *referred immediately* to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 24 June 2008;
 - (c) the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment (Feed-in-Tariff) Bill 2008 be *referred immediately* to the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee for inquiry and report by 14 October 2008;
 - (d) the Tax Laws Amendment (Budget Measures) Bill 2008 be *referred immediately* to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report by 24 June 2008; and
 - (e) the Unit Pricing (Easy comparison of grocery prices) Bill 2008 be *referred immediately* to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report by 2 September 2008.
3. The committee resolved to recommend—That the following bills *not* be referred to committees:
- Commonwealth Securities and Investment Legislation Amendment Bill 2008
 - Crimes Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Matters) Bill 2008
 - Customs Tariff Amendment (Tobacco Content) Bill 2008
 - Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme Bill 2008
 - Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008
 - Dental Benefits Bill 2008
 - Dental Benefits (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008
 - Evidence Amendment Bill 2008
 - Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Child Care Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2008
 - Farm Household Support Amendment (Additional Drought Assistance Measures) Bill 2008
 - First Home Saver Accounts Bill 2008
 - First Home Saver Accounts (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008
 - Health Care (Appropriation) Amendment Bill 2008
 - Higher Education Support Amendment (2008 Budget Measures) Bill 2008
 - Income Tax (First Home Saver Accounts Misuse Tax) Bill 2008
 - Income Tax (Managed Investment Trust Transitional) Bill 2008
 - Income Tax (Managed Investment Trust Withholding Tax) Bill 2008
 - Indigenous Affairs Legislation Amendment Bill 2008
 - Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Amendment (2008 Budget Measures) Bill 2008
 - Judiciary Amendment Bill 2008
 - Law Officers Legislation Amendment Bill 2008
 - National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme) Bill 2008
 - Parliamentary (Judicial Misbehaviour or Incapacity) Commission Bill 2007 [2008]
 - Private Health Insurance Legislation Amendment Bill 2008
 - Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Employment Entry Payment) Bill 2008
 - Tax Laws Amendment (Election Commitments No. 1) Bill 2008
 - Tax Laws Amendment (Medicare Levy and Medicare Levy Surcharge) Bill 2008

The committee recommends accordingly.

4. The committee deferred consideration of the following bills to its next meeting:
- A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition—Customs) Amendment Bill 2008
 - A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition—Excise) Amendment Bill 2008
 - A New Tax System (Luxury Car Tax Imposition—General) Amendment Bill 2008
 - Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Political Donations and Other Measures) Bill 2008
 - Excise Legislation Amendment (Condensate) Bill 2008
 - Excise Tariff Amendment (Condensate) Bill 2008
 - National Fuelwatch (Empowering Consumers) Bill 2008
 - National Fuelwatch (Empowering Consumers) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008
 - National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical and Other Benefits—Cost Recovery) Bill 2008
 - Plastic Bag Levy (Assessment and Collection) Bill 2002 [2008]
 - Same-Sex Relationships (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws—Superannuation) Bill 2008
 - Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 3) Bill 2008
 - Tax Laws Amendment (Luxury Car Tax) Bill 2008
 - Tax Laws Amendment (Medicare Levy Surcharge Thresholds) Bill 2008
 - Trade Practices (Creeping Acquisitions) Amendment Bill 2007 [2008]

Kerry O'Brien
Chair
18 June 2008.

Senator O'Brien moved—That the report be adopted.

The Minister for Human Services (Senator Ludwig) moved the following amendment:

At the end of the motion, add “and, in respect of the Evidence Amendment Bill 2008, the provisions of the bill be referred to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 2 September 2008”.

Debate ensued.

Senator Ludwig, by leave, withdrew the amendment.

Senator Parry moved the following amendment:

At the end of the motion, add “and, in respect of the Evidence Amendment Bill 2008, the provisions of the bill be referred to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee for inquiry and report not before 25 September 2008”.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put and passed.

Main question, as amended, put and passed.

11 POSTPONEMENTS

The following items of business were postponed:

General business notice of motion no. 100 standing in the name of the Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison) for today, relating to crimes against women in Iraq, postponed till 19 June 2008.

General business notice of motion no. 102 standing in the name of the Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison) for today, relating to global warming, postponed till 24 June 2008.

General business notice of motion no. 103 standing in the name of the Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison) for today, relating to Western Sahara, postponed till 19 June 2008.

General business notice of motion no. 109 standing in the name of the Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding) for today, proposing the introduction of the Poker Machine Harm Minimisation Bill 2008, postponed till 19 June 2008.

12 ECONOMICS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE

The Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison), also on behalf of Senator Murray, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved business of the Senate notice of motion no. 2—

- (1) That the Senate—
 - (a) notes the report by CHOICE on charities, published online in March 2008, that highlights the wide variability and inconsistency in the way that charities disclose information to the public; and
 - (b) acknowledges that the 27 recommendations from the inquiry into the definition of charities and related organisations, which reported in 2001, have not been implemented.
- (2) That the following matters be referred to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report by the last sitting day of November 2008:
 - (a) to investigate the relevance and appropriateness of current disclosure regimes for charities and all other not-for-profit organisations;
 - (b) to identify models of regulation and legal forms that would improve governance and management of charities and not-for-profit organisations and cater for emerging social enterprises; and
 - (c) to identify other measures that can be taken by government and the not-for-profit sector to assist the sector to improve governance, standards, accountability and transparency in its use of public and government funds.

Question put and passed.

13 INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS—AUSTRALIA'S SKILLS CHALLENGE

The Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 101—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that the statement by the Australian Industry Group, the Australian Council of Trade Unions, the Australian Education Union, Group Training Australia and the Dusseldorp Skills Forum 'Facing up to Australia's Skills Challenge', in which priorities are proposed for:
 - (i) a focus on improving the quality and increasing the number of Australians with vocational education and training qualifications which meet future industry and workforce needs,
 - (ii) the centrality of industry,
 - (iii) improved youth engagement and attainment,
 - (iv) the crucial role for student support and for intermediaries,

- (v) national workforce development and existing worker strategies,
 - (vi) genuine competency-based progression and improved apprenticeship completions,
 - (vii) a review of traineeships,
 - (viii) a public and industry investment strategy for vocational education and training,
 - (ix) a clear vision for flexible and responsive vocational education providers, and for the future of technical and further education in particular, and
 - (x) a focus on the skills needed for a low carbon economy; and
- (b) calls on the Government to adopt these priorities and to seriously consider the strategies suggested in the statement as soon as possible.

Question put and passed.

**14 ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS—STANDING COMMITTEE—
REFERENCE**

Senator Siewert amended business of the Senate notice of motion no. 1 by leave and, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved—That—

- (1) The Senate notes the continuing decline and extinction of a significant proportion of Australia's unique plants and animals, and the likelihood that accelerating climate change will exacerbate challenges faced by Australian species.
- (2) The following matter be referred to the Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee for inquiry and report by 27 November 2008:
The operation of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and other natural resource protection programs, with particular reference to:
 - (a) the findings of the Australian National Audit Office, Audit report no. 38 of 2002-03, *Referrals, Assessments and Approvals under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*;
 - (b) lessons learnt from the first 10 years of operation of the EPBC Act in relation to the protection of critical habitats of threatened species and ecological communities, and the potential for measures to improve their recovery;
 - (c) the cumulative impacts of EPBC Act approvals on threatened species and ecological communities, for example on Cumberland Plain Woodland, Cassowary habitat, Grassy White Box Woodlands and the Paradise Dam;
 - (d) the effectiveness of responses to key threats identified within the EPBC Act, including land-clearing, climate change and invasive species, and potential for future measures to build environmental resilience and facilitate adaptation within a changing climate;
 - (e) the effectiveness of Regional Forest Agreements, in protecting forest species and forest habitats where the EPBC Act does not directly apply;
 - (f) the impacts of other environmental programs, for example Envirofund, Green Corps, Caring for our Country, Environmental Stewardship Programme and Landcare, in dealing with the decline and extinction of certain flora and fauna; and
 - (g) the impact of program changes and cuts in funding on the decline or extinction of flora and fauna.

Question put and passed.

15 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—STANDING COMMITTEE—LEAVE TO MEET DURING SITTING

Senator O'Brien, at the request of the Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee (Senator Bishop) and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 108—That the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee be authorised to hold a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Friday, 20 June 2008, from 9.15 am, to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the review of reforms to Australia's military justice system by the Australian Defence Force.

Question put and passed.

16 PRIVILEGES—STANDING COMMITTEE—134TH REPORT

The Chair of the Standing Committee of Privileges (Senator Brandis) tabled the following report:

Privileges—Standing Committee—134th report—Effective repetition, dated June 2008.

Report ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator Brandis.

Senator Brandis moved—That the Senate endorse the principles outlined in paragraph 1.18 of the 134th report of the Committee of Privileges to guide any amendment of the *Parliamentary Privileges Act 1987* to address the issue of effective repetition.

Question put and passed.

17 AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEGRITY—JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE—REPORT—EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER 2006-07

The Chair of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (Senator Campbell) tabled the following report and documents:

Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity—Joint Statutory Committee—Examination of the annual report for 2006-07 of the Integrity Commissioner—Report, dated June 2008, Hansard record of proceedings and additional information.

Report ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator Campbell.

Senator Campbell moved—That the Senate take note of the report.

Question put and passed.

18 SCRUTINY OF BILLS—STANDING COMMITTEE—5TH REPORT AND ALERT DIGEST NO. 5 OF 2008

The Chairman of the Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills (Senator Ellison) tabled the following report and document:

Scrutiny of Bills—Standing Committee—

5th report of 2008, dated 18 June 2008.

Alert Digest No. 5 of 2008, dated 18 June 2008.

Report ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator Ellison.

Senator Ellison moved—That the Senate take note of the report.

Question put and passed.

19 SCRUTINY OF BILLS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—WORK OF THE COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 2002 TO AUGUST 2004

The Chairman of the Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills (Senator Ellison) tabled the following report:

Scrutiny of Bills—Standing Committee—Work of the committee during the 40th Parliament, February 2002 to August 2004.

Report ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator Ellison.

Senator Ellison moved—That the Senate take note of the report.

Question put and passed.

20 AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION—JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE—REPORT—EXAMINATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2006-07

The Chair of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission (Senator Hutchins) tabled the following report and documents:

Australian Crime Commission—Joint Statutory Committee—Examination of the annual report for 2006-07 of the Australian Crime Commission—Report, dated June 2008, Hansard record of proceedings and additional information.

Report ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator Hutchins.

Senator Hutchins moved—That the Senate take note of the report.

Question put and passed.

21 ECONOMICS—NATIONAL PRODUCT SAFETY REFORM—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—DOCUMENT

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship (Senator Evans) tabled the following document:

Economics—National Product Safety Reform—Ministerial statement by the Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs (Mr Bowen), dated 18 June 2008.

22 INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS—INDIGENOUS LEGAL FUNDING—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—DOCUMENT

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship (Senator Evans) tabled the following document:

Indigenous Australians—Indigenous legal funding—Ministerial statement by the Minister for Home Affairs (Mr Debus), dated 18 June 2008.

23 AUDITOR-GENERAL—AUDIT REPORT NO. 41 OF 2007-08—DOCUMENT

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Carol Brown) tabled the following document:

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 41 of 2007-08—Performance audit—Management of personnel security: Follow-up audit.

24 DOCUMENTS

The following documents were tabled by the Clerk:

Defence Act—Determination under section 58B—Defence Determination 2008/23—East Timor – amendment.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act—Notice of proposed accreditation of the Torres Strait Beche-de-mer Fishery Statement of Management Arrangements 2005, dated 11 June 2008.

**25 TAX LAWS AMENDMENT (ELECTION COMMITMENTS NO. 1) BILL 2008
INCOME TAX (MANAGED INVESTMENT TRUST WITHHOLDING TAX) BILL 2008
INCOME TAX (MANAGED INVESTMENT TRUST TRANSITIONAL) BILL 2008
COMMONWEALTH SECURITIES AND INVESTMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT
BILL 2008**

Messages from the House of Representatives were reported transmitting for the concurrence of the Senate the following bills:

Message no. 101, dated 18 June 2008—A Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to taxation, and for related purposes.

Message no. 102, dated 18 June 2008—A Bill for an Act to impose income tax on amounts attributable to fund payments derived by foreign residents, and for related purposes.

Message no. 103, dated 18 June 2008—A Bill for an Act to impose income tax on amounts attributable to fund payments derived by foreign residents, and for related purposes.

Message no. 104, dated 18 June 2008—A Bill for an Act to amend the law in relation to Commonwealth borrowing, and Commonwealth securities and investments, and for related purposes.

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship (Senator Evans) moved—That these bills may proceed without formalities, may be taken together and be now read a first time.

Question put and passed.

Bills read a first time.

Senator Evans moved—That these bills be now read a second time.

On the motion of Senator Evans the debate was adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Consideration of legislation: Senator Evans moved that the Commonwealth Securities and Investment Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 be listed on the *Notice Paper* as a separate order of the day.

Question put and passed.

**26 COMMUNITY AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—ALCOHOL TOLL
REDUCTION BILL 2007 [2008]**

Pursuant to order, Senator Sterle, at the request of the Chair of the Community Affairs Committee (Senator Moore), tabled the following report and documents:

Community Affairs—Standing Committee—Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007 [2008]—Report, dated June 2008, Hansard record of proceedings, additional information and submissions.

Report ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator Sterle.

**27 DENTAL BENEFITS BILL 2008
DENTAL BENEFITS (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 2008**

Order read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing (Senator McLucas)—That these bills be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bills read a second time.

The Senate resolved itself into committee for the consideration of the bills.

In the committee

Bills taken together and as a whole by leave.

On the motion of Senator Colbeck the following amendment in respect of the Dental Benefits Bill 2008 was debated and agreed to:

Page 47 (after line 14), at the end of the bill, add:

68 Review of Operation of Act

- (1) The Minister must cause an independent review of the operation of this Act to be undertaken as soon as possible after the first anniversary of the commencement of this Act.
- (2) Further independent reviews of the operation of this Act must be made as soon as practicable after the third anniversary of the commencement of this Act and at three yearly intervals thereafter.
- (3) The Minister must cause a copy of the report of each review mentioned in subsection (1) and (2) to be tabled in each House of the Parliament within 15 sitting days of the day on which the report is given to the Minister.
- (4) The review must be conducted by a panel which must comprise not less than 5 persons, including:
 - (a) a person occupying the position of Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer;
 - (b) a person nominated by the Australian Dental Association;
 - (c) a person nominated by the Consumers' Health Forum of Australia;
 - (d) two other persons nominated by the Minister, at least one of whom must have qualifications in medicine or dentistry.

The Dental Benefits Bill 2008, as amended, agreed to and the Dental Benefits (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008 agreed to.

The Dental Benefits Bill 2008 to be reported with an amendment and the Dental Benefits (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008 to be reported without amendment.

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Carol Brown) resumed the chair and the Temporary Chair of Committees reported accordingly.

On the motion of Senator McLucas the report from the committee was adopted and the bills read a third time.

28 FIRST HOME SAVER ACCOUNTS BILL 2008
INCOME TAX (FIRST HOME SAVER ACCOUNTS MISUSE TAX) BILL 2008
FIRST HOME SAVER ACCOUNTS (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 2008

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Special Minister of State (Senator Faulkner)—That these bills be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed.

Bills read a second time.

No amendments to the bills were circulated and no senator required that they be considered in committee.

On the motion of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing (Senator McLucas) the bills were read a third time.

**29 CORPORATIONS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES—JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE—
LEAVE TO MEET DURING SITTING**

Senator Sterle, by leave and on behalf of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services, moved—That the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services be authorised to hold a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate today, to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the continuing oversight of the operations of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.

Question put and passed.

**30 TAX LAWS AMENDMENT (MEDICARE LEVY AND MEDICARE LEVY SURCHARGE)
BILL 2008**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Special Minister of State (Senator Faulkner)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

No amendments to the bill were circulated and no senator required that it be considered in committee.

On the motion of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing (Senator McLucas) the bill was read a third time.

**31 FAMILY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (CHILD CARE BUDGET AND
OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2008**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Special Minister of State (Senator Faulkner)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

On the motion of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing (Senator McLucas) the debate was adjourned till the next day of sitting.

32 VALEDICTORY STATEMENTS

Leave was granted for valedictory statements to be called on immediately.

Senators made statements relating to the retirement of certain senators.

33 ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to order, the Senate adjourned at 7.35 pm till Thursday, 19 June 2008 at 9.30 am.

34 **ATTENDANCE**

Present, all senators except Senators Carr*, Conroy*, Heffernan, Joyce and Nash* (* on leave).

HARRY EVANS
Clerk of the Senate