

1996-97

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 63

WEDNESDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 1997

1 The House met, at 9.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Bob Halverson) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—ROUTINE OF BUSINESS FOR 6 FEBRUARY 1997**

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That for the sitting on Thursday, 6 February 1997, so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the routine of business being as follows, unless otherwise ordered:

1. Members' statements.
2. Grievance debate (at 9.45 a.m.).
3. Notices, government business (at 11.05 a.m.).
4. Notices and orders of the day, government business.
5. Questions without notice (at 2 p.m.).
6. Presentation of papers.
7. Ministerial statements, by leave.
8. Matter of public importance.
9. Notices and orders of the day, government business.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

3 **MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, PROPOSED ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR 1996-97—APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1996-97**

Message No. 90, dated 3 February 1997, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced:

- (a) transmitting to the House of Representatives particulars of proposed additional expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending on 30 June 1997; and

- (b) in accordance with the requirements of section 56 of the Constitution, recommending to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to appropriate money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, additional to the money appropriated by the *Appropriation Act (No. 1) 1996-97*, for the service of the year ending on 30 June 1997, and for related purposes.

Mr Jull (Minister for Administrative Services) presented a Bill for an Act to appropriate money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, additional to the money appropriated by the *Appropriation Act (No. 1) 1996-97*, for the service of the year ending on 30 June 1997, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Jull moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned (Mr McMullan), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**4 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, CERTAIN PROPOSED ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR 1996-97—APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 4) 1996-97**

Message No. 91, dated 3 February 1997, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced:

- (a) transmitting to the House of Representatives particulars of certain proposed additional expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund in respect of the year ending on 30 June 1997; and
- (b) in accordance with the requirements of section 56 of the Constitution, recommending to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to appropriate money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, additional to the money appropriated by the *Appropriation Act (No. 2) 1996-97*, for certain expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 1997, and for related purposes.

Mr Jull (Minister for Administrative Services) presented a Bill for an Act to appropriate money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, additional to the money appropriated by the *Appropriation Act (No. 2) 1996-97*, for certain expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 1997, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Jull moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned (Mr McMullan), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**5 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, PROPOSED ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE IN RELATION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS FOR YEAR 1996-97—APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS) BILL (NO. 2) 1996-97**

Message No. 92, dated 3 February 1997, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced:

- (a) transmitting to the House of Representatives particulars of proposed additional expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund in relation to the Parliamentary Departments in respect of the year ending on 30 June 1997; and
- (b) in accordance with the requirements of section 56 of the Constitution, recommending to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to appropriate money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, additional to the money appropriated by the *Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Act 1996-97*, for certain expenditure in relation to the Parliamentary Departments in respect of the year ending on 30 June 1997, and for related purposes.

Mr Jull (Minister for Administrative Services) presented a Bill for an Act to appropriate money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, additional to the money appropriated by the *Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Act 1996-97*, for certain expenditure in relation to the Parliamentary Departments in respect of the year ending on 30 June 1997, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Jull moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned (Mr McMullan), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**6 CHARTER OF BUDGET HONESTY BILL 1996**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

It being 2 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 101A, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

**7 DEATH OF FORMER MEMBER (MR H. V. HALBERT)**

The Speaker informed the House of the death, on 31 January 1997, of Mr Hugh Victor Halbert, a Member of this House for the Division of Moore from 1958 to 1961.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased all Members present stood, in silence.

**8 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice being asked—

*Member named and suspended:* The Speaker named the Member for Watson (Mr McLeay) for refusing to resume his seat when directed to do so by the Chair.

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the Member for Watson be suspended from the service of the House.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Mr Halverson, in the Chair)—

AYES, 90

Mr Abbott	Mr Entsch	Mr Lloyd	Mr Scott
Mr Anderson	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr McArthur*	Mr Sharp
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mr Filing	Mr McDougall	Mr Sinclair
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Fischer	Mr McGauran	Mr Slipper
Mr Anthony	Mrs Gallus	Mr McLachlan	Mr A. C. Smith
Mrs Bailey	Ms Gambaro	Mr Marek	Mr W. L. Smith
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mrs Gash	Mr Miles	Mr Somlyay
Mr Barresi	Mr Georgiou	Mr Moore	Dr Southcott
Mr Bartlett	Mrs E. J. Grace	Mrs Moylan	Mrs Stone
Mr Billson	Ms Hanson	Mr Mutch	Mrs Sullivan
Mrs Bishop	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nairn	Mr Taylor
Mr Bradford	Mr Hawker	Mr Nehl	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mr Broadbent	Mr Hicks*	Dr Nelson	Mr Truss
Mr Brough	Mr Hockey	Mr Neville	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cadman	Mr Howard	Mr Nugent	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr E. H. Cameron	Ms Jeanes	Mr Prosser	Ms D. S. Vale
Mr R. A. Cameron	Mrs Johnston	Mr Pyne	Mr Wakelin
Mr Causley	Mr Jull	Mr Randall	Mr Williams
Mr Charles	Mr Katter	Mr Reid	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Costello	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Reith	Ms Worth
Mr Dondas	Dr Kemp	Mr Rocher	Mr Zammit
Mrs Draper	Mr Lieberman	Mr Ronaldson	
Mrs Elson	Mr Lindsay	Mr Ruddock	

NOES, 47

Mr Adams	Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Latham	Mr O'Connor
Mr Albanese	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Keefe
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Price
Mr Beazley	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr McClelland	Mr Sawford*
Mr Beddall	Mr E. L. Grace*	Ms Macklin	Mr Sercombe
Mr Bevis	Mr Griffin	Mr McLeay	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Brereton	Mr Hatton	Mr McMullan	Mr Tanner
Mr Brown	Mr Holding	Mr Martin	Dr Theophanous
Mr Crean	Mr Hollis	Mr Melham	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mrs Crosio	Mr Jenkins	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr Willis
Ms Ellis	Mr Jones	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Wilton
Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Kerr	Mr Mossfield	

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

The Member was, therefore, suspended at 2.42 p.m. for 24 hours under standing order 305, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continued.

**9 PAPER**

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, presented the following paper:

HECS fees for science courses—Copy of transcript of interview with Phil Honeywood, Victorian Minister for Tertiary Education, on the 'World Today' program, ABC radio, 5 February 1997.

**10 PAPERS**

The following papers were presented:

Equal Employment Opportunity (Commonwealth Authorities) Act—Civil Aviation Safety Authority—Equity and diversity program July 1994 to June 1997—Progress report 1995-96.

Equal employment opportunity program—Commonwealth Bank of Australia—Report for 1995-96.

United Nations General Assembly—50th session, 1995—Report of the Australian Delegation.

**11 TRADE OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER**

Mr Fischer (Minister for Trade), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning trade policy and presented the following paper:

Trade outcomes and objectives statement, February 1997.

Mr S. F. Smith, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

**12 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—RETAIL SALES**

The House was informed that Mr G. J. Evans (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The alarming implications for growth and jobs of the collapse in retail sales".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr G. J. Evans addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

**13 HEARING SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BILL 1997**

Mrs Moylan (Minister for Family Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to hearing services.

Bill read a first time.

Mrs Moylan moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper:* Mrs Moylan presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Mr O'Connor), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**14 HEARING SERVICES AND AGHS REFORM BILL 1997**

Mrs Moylan (Minister for Family Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Hearing Services Act 1991*, to enact transitional provisions relating to the corporatisation of the Australian Government Health Service, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mrs Moylan moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper:* Mrs Moylan presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Mr O'Connor), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**15 SEX DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT BILL 1996—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE**

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Sex Discrimination Amendment Bill 1996 had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Ronaldson (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Regional Development), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**16 FINANCIAL LAWS AMENDMENT BILL 1996—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE**

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Financial Laws Amendment Bill 1996 had been considered by the Main Committee and was returned with an unresolved question (*see item No. 3, Minutes of Proceedings of the Main Committee*), and presented a certified copy of the Bill together with a schedule of the unresolved question.

Unresolved question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—proposed.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Nehl, in the Chair)—

## AYES, 82

Mr Abbott	Mrs Elson	Mr Lloyd	Mr Scott
Mr Anderson	Mr Entsch	Mr McArthur*	Mr Sharp
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr McDougall	Mr Sinclair
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Filing	Mr McGauran	Mr Slipper
Mr Anthony	Mr Fischer	Mr McLachlan	Mr A. C. Smith
Mrs Bailey	Mrs Gallus	Mr Marek	Mr W. L. Smith
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Ms Gambaro	Mr Miles	Mr Somlyay
Mr Barresi	Mrs Gash	Mr Moore	Dr Southcott
Mr Bartlett	Mr Georgiou	Mrs Moylan	Mrs Stone
Mr Billson	Mrs E. J. Grace	Mr Mutch	Mr Taylor
Mrs Bishop	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nairn	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mr Bradford	Mr Hawker	Dr Nelson	Mr Truss
Mr Broadbent	Mr Hicks*	Mr Neville	Mr Tuckey
Mr Brough	Mr Hockey	Mr Nugent	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Cadman	Ms Jeanes	Mr Prosser	Ms D. S. Vale
Mr E. H. Cameron	Mrs Johnston	Mr Pyne	Mr Wakelin
Mr R. A. Cameron	Mr Jull	Mr Randall	Mr Williams
Mr Causley	Mr Katter	Mr Reid	Ms Worth
Mr Charles	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Reith	Mr Zammit
Mr Dondas	Mr Lieberman	Mr Ronaldson	
Mrs Draper	Mr Lindsay	Mr Ruddock	

## NOES, 41

Mr Adams	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Lee	Mr Sawford*
Mr Albanese	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr McClelland	Mr Sercombe
Mr Beddall	Mr Griffin	Ms Macklin	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Bevis	Mr Hatton	Mr McMullan	Mr Tanner
Mr Brereton	Mr Holding	Mr Martin	Dr Theophanous
Mr Brown	Mr Hollis	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr Crean	Mr Jenkins	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Willis
Mrs Crosio	Mr Jones	Mr Mossfield	Mr Wilton
Ms Ellis	Mr Kerr	Mr O'Connor	
Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Latham	Mr O'Keefe	
Mr M. J. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr Price	

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Miles (Parliamentary Secretary (Cabinet) to the Prime Minister), the Bill was read a third time.

#### 17 GENERAL INSURANCE SUPERVISORY LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1996— REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the General Insurance Supervisory Levy Amendment Bill 1996 had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Ronaldson (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Regional Development), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**18 DEFENCE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1996—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE**

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Defence Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 1996 had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mr Ronaldson (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Regional Development), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**19 ADJOURNMENT**

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 5.32 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.

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**PAPERS**

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 5 February 1997:

Fisheries Management Act—

Determinations 1996 SBT Final TAC, 1997 SBT Provisional TAC.

Plan of management amendment No. SBT 03.

Public Service Act—Determinations—

1996 Nos. 240, LES 48.

1997 Nos. 1, 2, 3.

Taxation Administration Act—Determination 1997 No. TD 97/5.

Veterans' Entitlements Act—Instrument under section 90 1997 No. 2.

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**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Cobb, Mr Downer, Mr Fahey, Mr Forrest, Miss J. M. Kelly, Mr Quick and Mrs West.

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**L. M. BARLIN**  
Clerk of the House of Representatives



1996-97

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 63

**MAIN COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 1997**

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1 The Main Committee met at 10 a.m.

**2 SEX DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT BILL 1996**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

**3 FINANCIAL LAWS AMENDMENT BILL 1996**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time —

Debate resumed.

Mr Latham moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following:

“(1) the House condemns the Government for not instructing the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to formally monitor bank fees and calls on the Government to ensure that a fair basic banking product is provided by the banks to consumers; and

(2) given the detailed matters raised in the Bill, it be referred to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Financial Institutions and Public Administration for detailed consideration”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put and not being resolved—Bill to be returned to the House.

**4 GENERAL INSURANCE SUPERVISORY LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1996**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

**5 DEFENCE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1996**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put forthwith.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

**6 ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Mr McLachlan (Minister for Defence), the Main Committee adjourned at 1.04 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker fixed tomorrow at 10 a.m. for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

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**I. C. HARRIS**  
Clerk of the Main Committee