

2002-03

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 93

WEDNESDAY, 28 MAY 2003

1 The House met, at 9 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

**2 HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (MEDICARE AND PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE) BILL 2003**

Ms Worth (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to medicare and private health insurance, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Ms Worth moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper*

Ms Worth presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**3 INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS (NOTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT) AMENDMENT BILL 2003**

Ms Worth (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Ms Worth moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper*

Ms Worth presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**4 HEALTH CARE (APPROPRIATION) AMENDMENT BILL 2003**

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 by Mr S. F. Smith who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not opposing the Bill, the House condemns the Government for its health policy failures, including:

- (a) the Howard Government’s withdrawal of \$918 million from public hospitals over the next four years;
- (b) the Howard Government’s unfair Medicare package which will result in bulk billing, in time, only being available to pensioners and concession card holders and families being left to pay more and more for their health care;
- (c) the Howard Government’s decision to increase the cost of essential medicines by up to 30%, hitting the sickest and the poorest hardest; and
- (d) the Howard Government’s refusal to review the \$2.3 billion private health insurance rebate to ensure that it provides value for money for consumers and taxpayers”.

Debate continued.

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.

## 5 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

*Paper*

Mr Anderson (Minister for Transport and Regional Services) presented the following paper:

Review of the national airspace system and competition for airport related services—Report prepared by Wes Willoughby and Associates, February 2003.

Questions without notice continued.

## 6 MEMBER ORDERED TO WITHDRAW

At 3.31 p.m. the Member for Werriwa (Mr Latham) was ordered, under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for one hour for making comments in respect of the Chair, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

## 7 PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Abbott (Leader of the House) presented the following paper:

Australasian Police Ministers' Council—National Common Police Services—Report for 2001-02 and moved—That the House take note of the paper.

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

## 8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—AUSTRALIA'S TOURISM INDUSTRY

The House was informed that Mr G. M. O'Connor had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the Government to deliver a Green Paper and 10 year industry plan for Australia's tourism industry".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr G. M. O'Connor addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

## 9 MURRAY-DARLING BASIN AMENDMENT BILL 2002—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill 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 Mrs D. S. Vale (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

## 10 HEALTH CARE (APPROPRIATION) AMENDMENT BILL 2003

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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr S. F. Smith (see item No. 4, page 905)*—

Debate resumed.

*Papers*

Ms Hall, by leave, presented the following papers:

Australia's health system—Form letters from constituents (539) to the Hon. John Howard MP, Prime Minister.

Debate continued.

Mr B. P. J. O'Connor addressing the House—

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**11 ADJOURNMENT**

It being 7.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 8 p.m.—The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 9 a.m.



**PAPERS**

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 28 May 2003:

Customs Act—CEO Directions—2003 No. 1 (Amendment).

Defence Force (Home Loans Assistance) Act—Determination of warlike service (Operation Falconer), 19 March 2003.

Taxation Administration Act—

Determinations—2003 Nos TD 15, TD 16, TD 17.

Rulings—2003 Nos CR 40, CR 41, CR 42, GSTR 5, PR 29, PR 30, PR 31, PR 32, PR 33, PR 34.



**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anthony, Jackie Kelly and Mr I. E. Macfarlane.



**I. C. HARRIS**  
Clerk of the House of Representatives

2002-03

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

No. 93

**MAIN COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 28 MAY 2003

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1 The Main Committee met at 9.40 a.m.

2 **MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Members' statements were made.

3 **MURRAY-DARLING BASIN AMENDMENT BILL 2002**

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.

4 **MIGRATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (PROTECTED INFORMATION) BILL 2002**

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.

*Paper*

Mr Katter, by leave, during a personal explanation, presented the following paper:

Australian exports and imports—Copy of documents prepared by the Department of the Parliamentary Library (3).

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*Suspension of sitting*

At 1.36 p.m., the Deputy Speaker left the Chair.

*Resumption of sitting*

At 4.03 p.m., the Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair.

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Debate continued.

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

*Consideration in detail*

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

*Paper*

Mr Ruddock (Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs) presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

On the motion of Mr Ruddock, by leave, Government amendments (1) to (5) were made together.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

Question—That the Bill be reported to the House with amendments—put and passed.

**5 CUSTOMS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 2003**

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 CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 2003**

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—

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.

**7 NATIONAL HANDGUN BUYBACK BILL 2003**

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.

*Message from the Governor-General*

Message No. 134, 13 May 2003, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

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.

**8 ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Mr Williams (Attorney-General), the Main Committee adjourned at 7.13 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker fixed tomorrow at 9.40 a.m. for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

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**B. C. WRIGHT**  
Clerk of the Main Committee