



# Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday 3 December 2003

The Senate met from 9.30am until 8.09pm

## Procedural change

The [Senate agreed](#) to amend [standing order 115](#) relating to the consideration of legislation in committee of the whole

## Legislation

[For full text of bills and other associated documents click here](#)

### The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- ❑ ASIO Legislation Amendment Bill 2003
- ❑ Broadcasting Services (Safeguarding Local Content and Local Audience Needs) Amendment Bill 2003 [Private senator's bill]

### The following bills were considered

*Second reading debate completed on the following bills* [details of these bills will be considered in committee of the whole on a future sitting day]

- ❑ Age Discrimination Bill 2003
- ❑ Age Discrimination (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2003
- ❑ ASIO Legislation Amendment Bill 2003

### Committee of the whole commenced on the following bills

- ❑ Higher Education Support Bill 2003 (3 Government [amendments](#) agreed to, 3 Opposition [amendments](#) to be determined)
- ❑ Higher Education Support (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003

### No bills were passed

### The following messages from the House of Representatives were reported

#### *Agreeing to the Senate's amendments to the following bill*

- ❑ New Business Tax System (Taxation of Financial Arrangements) Bill (No. 1) 2003 [The bill will now be assented to]

***Disagreeing to the Senate's amendments to the following bills***

[The Senate will reconsider the amendments disagreed to by the House on a future sitting day]

- ❑ Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 5) 2003
- ❑ Trade Practices Legislation Amendment Bill 2003
- ❑ Trade Practices Amendment (Personal Injuries and Death) Bill 2003

**The following message from the House of Representatives was considered**

- ❑ States Grants (Primary and Secondary Education Assistance) Amendment Bill 2003—[The message reported](#) that the House of Representatives had disagreed to the amendment made by the Senate. The Senate agreed not to insist on its amendments. [The bill will now be assented to]

**The following bill was exempted from the cut-off order** [to enable consideration this period of sittings]

- ❑ ASIO Legislation Amendment Bill 2003

**Notices of motion given**

*To exempt a bill from certain provisions of standing order 111* [to enable consideration this period of sittings]

- ❑ Designs (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003

***To introduce bills***

The Minister for Local Government, Territories, and Roads (Senator Ian Campbell) gave notice of the introduction of the following bills:

- ❑ Australian Crime Commission Amendment Bill 2003
- ❑ Australian Federal Police and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2003
- ❑ Fisheries Legislation Amendment (Compliance and Deterrence Measures and Other Matters) Bill 2003
- ❑ Norfolk Island Amendment Bill 2003

See the **Committees** section for details of reports relating to legislation

**Delegated legislation**

For a complete list of notices of motion to disallow (and outcomes) [click here](#)

See the **Documents** section for details of instruments tabled

**Committees**

For scheduled public committee hearings [click here](#)  
For committee reports [click here](#)

**Estimates**

***Estimates hearings 2004***

The Senate agreed to a [schedule of estimates hearings](#) by legislation committees and reporting dates for 2003-04 additional estimates and 2004-05 Budget estimates

*Additional information tabled*

Additional information received by the Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee relating to Budget estimates for 2003-04 was tabled

**Reports tabled**

- Financial Services Reform Amendment Bill 2003 and certain associated regulations—Economics Legislation Committee
- Governance on Norfolk Island—National Capital and External Territories Joint Committee
- Scrutiny of Bills Committee—[Alert Digest No. 16](#) of 2003 and [15th report](#) of 2003 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]
- Selection of Bills Committee—[Report No. 16](#) of 2003 (tabled, amended and adopted) [contains recommendations to refer bills to committees]

**Government response to President's report tabled**

Response to schedule of government responses outstanding to reports, tabled by the President on 26 June 2003

**Membership**

The Senate agreed to the following change to committee membership:

- Community Affairs Legislation Committee—Discharged: Senator Heffernan;  
Appointed: Senator Barnett

**New inquiries**

*See the **Reports tabled** section (Selection of Bills Committee Report) for details of bills referred to committees*

**Reporting dates**

The Senate agreed to the following extensions of time for committees to report:

- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—
  - Administration of AusSAR in relation to the search for the *Margaret J*—to report by 11 March 2004
  - Administration of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority—to report by 11 March 2004
  - Import risk assessment on New Zealand apples—to report by 11 March 2004
- Taxation Laws Amendment (Superannuation Contributions Splitting) Bill 2003 and associated regulations—Economics Legislation Committee—to report by 4 December 2003

**Notices of motion given**

*To extend reporting deadlines*

- Exposure draft of the Building and Construction Industry Improvement Bill 2003—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee—to report by 13 May 2004
- Whether the *Trade Practices Act 1974* adequately protects small business—Economics References Committee—to report by 11 February 2004

*To refer matters to committees*

- ❑ Disability Discrimination Amendment Bill 2003—Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee—to report by 25 March 2004
- ❑ Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Bill 2003 and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2003—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee—to report by 1 March 2004
- ❑ Sexuality and Gender Identity Discrimination Bill 2003 and related matters—Legal and Constitutional References Committee—to report by 30 June 2004

## Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions about:

- ❑ [International Day of Disabled Persons](#)—moved by Senator Greig
- ❑ [National paid maternity leave scheme](#)—moved by Senator Nettle

## Motions defeated

[A motion](#) moved by Senator Brown about detention centres on Nauru and Manus Island was defeated

## Notices of motion

For other notices of motion not mentioned elsewhere [click here](#)

## Orders for the production of documents

*Motions agreed to*

The Senate ordered the tabling of:

- ❑ [All correspondence](#) and documents between certain parties about the PBS listing of, and education campaign for, the Thiazolidineione group of drugs (by 3pm on 4 December 2003)—moved by Senator Nettle
- ❑ [Those parts of the audit report](#) on the Sepon mine project in Laos referred to by the Minister for Finance and Administration in his statement to the Senate on 25 November 2003 which relate to the environmental and social impacts of the project (by 3pm on 4 December 2003)—moved by Senator Nettle

*Statements*

Senator Harradine made [a statement](#) about the government's failure to fulfil the order of the Senate [agreed to 28 October 2003] requiring the Leader of the Government in the Senate to table two expert reports relating to the use of human embryos for research (no later than immediately after motions to take note of answers on 29 October 2003). [Senator Hill responded](#) to the statement.

**Orders with continuing effect**

*Departmental and agency contracts published on the internet*

Senator Forshaw gave [notice of a motion](#) to amend the order [The order of the Senate requires letters of advice about certain contracts valued at \$100 000 or more entered into by departments and agencies required to be tabled twice yearly; [Senate order](#) agreed to]

## Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- ❑ [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]. [The Senate agreed](#) to take note of two of the documents.
- ❑ [Government documents](#)
- ❑ [9 petitions](#) were received

## Also in the Senate yesterday

- ❑ Matters of public interest debate
- ❑ Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- ❑ [Valedictory statements](#)
- ❑ Adjournment debate

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