



Senate Daily Summary

Tuesday 10 February 2004

The Senate met from 12.30pm until 8.40pm

Senate vacancy

The President announced the resignation, on 10 February 2004, of Senator Alston and advised the Senate that, pursuant to section 21 of the Constitution, he had notified the Governor of Victoria that there was a vacancy in the representation of that state

Legislation

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

The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- ❑ Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003
- ❑ Aviation Transport Security Bill 2003
- ❑ Aviation Transport Security (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2003
- ❑ Building and Construction Industry Improvement Bill 2003
- ❑ Building and Construction Industry Improvement (Consequential and Transitional) Bill 2003
- ❑ Health Legislation Amendment (Medicare) Bill 2003
- ❑ National Residue Survey Customs Levy Rate Correction (Lamb Exports) Bill 2003
- ❑ National Residue Survey Excise Levy Rate Correction (Lamb Transactions) Bill 2003
- ❑ Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Amendment (Wine Grapes) Bill 2003
- ❑ Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Choice of Superannuation Funds) Bill 2003

The following bills were passed

Without amendments [The bill will now be assented to]

- ❑ Fisheries Legislation Amendment (Compliance and Deterrence Measures and Other Matters) Bill 2003 [2004]

With amendments [The House of Representatives will now consider the amendments made by the Senate]

- Migration Legislation Amendment (Identification and Authentication) Bill 2003–20 Government [amendments agreed to](#)

Messages from the House of Representatives reported

The messages agreed to the amendments made by the Senate to the following bills [The bills will now be assented to]

- Family Law Amendment Bill 2003
- Financial Services Reform Amendment Bill 2003
- Higher Education Support Bill 2003
- Higher Education Support (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003
- Trade Practices Legislation Amendment Bill 2003

Bills assented to

[Assent](#) to a number of bills was reported in the Senate

Proclamations

[Proclamations](#) by the Governor-General were tabled announcing when particular parts of Acts would commence

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](#)

Notices of motion given

Notice of motion was given to disallow the new rule 77 in item [1] of Schedule 1 and new item 10990 in item [2] of Schedule 1 to the Health Insurance (General Medical Services Table) Amendment Regulations 2003 (No. 2), as contained in Statutory Rules 2003 No. 318 and made under the *Health Insurance Act 1973*—by Senator Nettle

Notice of intention given to withdraw a notice

A notice of intention was given by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances to withdraw a notice to disallow the Migration Amendment Regulations 2003 (No. 7), as contained in Statutory Rules 2003 No. 239 and made under the *Migration Act 1958*

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

Committees

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

Estimates

Additional Information tabled

- Additional estimates 2002-03–Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
- [Budget estimates](#) 2003-04–Economics Legislation Committee
- Budget estimates 2003-04–Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

Reports tabled

- ATM fee structure–Corporations and Financial Services Joint Committee
- Money matters in the bush–Corporations and Financial Services Joint Committee

Membership

The Senate agreed to the following changes to committee membership:

- Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee–Senator Marshall appointed as a participating member
- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee–Senator Allison appointed as a participating member for the inquiry into current health preparation arrangements for the deployment of Australian Defence Forces overseas

Motion defeated

The Senate did not agree to a motion to refer Australia’s involvement in preparations for the deployment of the United States of America’s proposed missile defence program to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

Notices of motion given

To establish a new committee

- [Select Committee on the free trade agreement](#) between Australia and the United States of America–to report within 3 months after the text of the agreement is made publicly available or by a later date as determined by the committee

To reconstitute an inquiry

- [Electoral funding and disclosure](#)–Electoral Matters Joint Committee–to report as expeditiously as possible

To extend reporting deadlines

- Whether the *Trade Practices Act 1974* adequately protects small business–Economics References Committee–to report by 1 March 2004

To hold public meetings when the Senate is sitting

- Economics Legislation Committee–12 February 2004 from 3.30pm to 7pm–Superannuation Safety Amendment Bill 2003

Motions defeated

The Senate did not agree to a [motion](#) moved by Senator Brown calling on the Government and Opposition to protect Recherche Bay in Tasmania from logging

Notices of motion

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

Orders for the production of documents

Motion agreed to

The Senate agreed to note that the Leader of the Government had failed to comply with an order for the production of documents relating to embryo research and the Council of Australian Governments (order agreed to [28 October 2003](#)). The Senate also [ordered](#) that the documents be provided before the adjournment of the Senate on 12 February 2004.

Notice of motion given

Senator Brown gave a notice of motion to require the Minister representing the Minister for Trade to table the Free Trade Agreement made between the Governments of Australia and the United States of America in February 2004 (no later than 5pm on 11 February 2004)

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- ❑ Auditor-General–[Reports Nos 18 to 27 of 2003-04](#) and corrigenda to report no. 22–Presented since the last sitting of the Senate
- ❑ Business of the Senate–1 January to 31 December 2003 [a digest of all business considered by the Senate in the calendar year 2003]
- ❑ [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- ❑ Commonwealth Ombudsman–Report for 2002-03 on the Ombudsman's activities in monitoring controlled operations conducted by the Australian Crime Commission and the Australian Federal Police–Presented since the last sitting of the Senate
- ❑ [Government documents](#)
- ❑ [Government documents](#) presented since the last sitting of the Senate
- ❑ Odgers' Australian Senate Practice 10th edition (Supplement)–Updates to 31 December 2003
- ❑ Qualification of Senator Scullion–[Advice from Mr Brian Shaw QC](#)
- ❑ Questions on notice–Summary for the period 12 February 2002 to 31 December 2003
- ❑ Responses to Senate resolutions about:
 - ❑ [Council of Australian Governments](#) (COAG)–from the Chief Minister of the ACT (resolution agreed to [25 November 2003](#))

- ❑ [Gambling](#)—from the Prime Minister (resolution agreed to [8 October 2003](#))
- ❑ [Labelling of genetically-modified produce](#)—from the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (resolution agreed to [27 November 2003](#))
- ❑ [2UE and 2GB](#)—proposed merger—from the Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Authority (resolution agreed to [4 December 2003](#))
- ❑ [Unemployment rate](#)—from the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations (resolution agreed to [26 November 2003](#))
- ❑ [Variation to the order](#) for the production of documents requiring certain departmental and agency contracts to be published on the internet—from the Auditor-General (resolution agreed to [4 December 2003](#))
- ❑ [7 petitions](#) were received

Also in the Senate yesterday

- ❑ Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- ❑ [The President informed](#) the Senate of the deaths of three former members of the House of Representatives
- ❑ The Leader of the Opposition made [a statement](#) relating to the Opposition shadow ministry
- ❑ Adjournment debate

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The *Senate Daily Summary* is available on the Internet at www.aph.gov.au/senate
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