



Senate Daily Summary

Tuesday 30 March 2004

The Senate met from 12.30pm until 10.59pm

Legislation

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

The following bill was introduced in the Senate

- Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Amendment (Employee Involvement and Compliance) Bill 2002

The following bill was considered

- Higher Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2004—second reading agreed to and committee of the whole commenced

The following bill was passed

With amendments

- Migration Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2002—1 Democrat and 3 Opposition amendments agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the [amendments](#) made by the Senate]

The following bill was defeated at the second reading by a majority vote

- Telstra (Transition to Full Private Ownership) Bill 2003 [No. 2]

The following message from the House of Representatives was reported

- Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Extension of Time Limits) Bill 2003—The message reported that the House of Representatives had not made the amendments requested and pressed by the Senate [The Senate will consider the message on a future sitting day]

The following bills were exempted from the cut-off order [to enable consideration this period of sittings]

- Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Representation in the House of Representatives) Bill 2004
- Intelligence Services 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](#)

Committees

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

For committee reports [click here](#)

Estimates

Additional information

- 2003-04 additional estimates (Supplementary)–Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee

Reports tabled

- Privileges Committee–117th report–Person referred to in the Senate (Dr I.C.F. Spry, QC) [Response as recommended by the committee was incorporated in [Hansard](#)]
- Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee–398th report–Review of Auditor-General’s reports 2002-03: Fourth quarter
- Telecommunications (Interception) Amendment Bill 2004–Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee

Reporting dates

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

- Building and Construction Industry Improvement Bill 2003 [exposure draft and bill] and a related bill–Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee–to report by 15 June 2004
- Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee–
 - Australian telecommunications network–to report by 16 June 2004
 - Competition in broadband services–to report by 24 June 2004
 - Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Invasive Species) Bill 2002–to report by 25 November 2004
 - Regulation, control and management of invasive species–to report by 25 November 2004
- Performance of government agencies in the assessment and dissemination of security threats in South East Asia in the period 11 September 2001 to 12 October 2002–Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee–to report by 24 June 2004

Notices of motion given

To hold a public meeting when the Senate is sitting

- Community Affairs References Committee–1 April 2004 from 3.15pm–Hepatitis C in Australia
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee–31 March 2004 from 5pm–administration of Biodiversity Australia concerning the revised draft import risk analysis for apples

To extend a reporting deadline

- Children in institutional care–Community Affairs References Committee–to report by 21 June 2004

To refer matters to a committee

- Government funding of government and non-government schools and [related matters](#)—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee—to report by 11 August 2004
- Functioning of the Office of the Chief Scientist and potential conflicts of interest arising from the dual role of the Chief Scientist—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee—to report by 24 June 2004

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions about:

- [Censure motion](#)—failure to comply with Senate order—moved by Senator Faulkner [and *see* Orders for the production of documents]
- [Iraq—Australian Defence Force personnel](#)—moved by Senator Bartlett (as a matter of urgency) and an amendment moved by Senator Faulkner agreed to
- [Parliament House](#) art collection—moved by Senator Ridgeway

Questions on notice—failure to provide answers

Senator Allison asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing for [an explanation](#) for answers not being provided to questions on notice nos 2523 and 2529 concerning issues within the Minister's portfolio. [The Minister indicated](#) that an explanation would be provided.

Senator Allison asked the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs for [an explanation](#) for an answer not being provided to question on notice no. 2360 concerning children being held in detention. The Minister was not in the chamber and an explanation was not provided.

Notices of motion

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

Orders for the production of documents

Motion agreed to

[The Senate ordered](#) the tabling of certain documents relating to information produced as part of the 2002-2003 CSIRO Biodiversity Division project, 'Ecological Implications of GMOs [genetically-modified organisms]' (no later than the conclusion of question time on 1 April 2004)—moved by Senator Cherry

Statement and censure motion

Senator McGauran made [a statement](#) indicating that the government would not comply with the [order of the Senate](#) [agreed to 24 March 2004 on the motion of Senator Faulkner] requiring the Leader of the Government in the Senate to table copies of all drafts of the clarifying statement which was negotiated between the Australian Federal Police Commissioner, Mr Keelty, and the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Dr Shergold, and any other members or representatives of the government and which was issued by the Commissioner on Tuesday 16 March 2004 (no later than 4pm on 30 March 2004).

The Leader of the Government in the Senate [made a further statement](#) explaining why the government would not comply with the order. The Senate [agreed to censure](#) the Leader of the Government for his failure to comply with the order [[on the motion](#) of Senator Faulkner].

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- ❑ Auditor-General–Audit report no. 37 of 2003-04–Performance audit–National Marine Unit: Australian Customs Service
- ❑ [Government documents](#)
- ❑ [2 petitions](#) were received

No Clerk's documents were tabled

Also in the Senate yesterday

- ❑ Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- ❑ Government documents were discussed
- ❑ 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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