



Senate Daily Summary

Monday, 17 September 2007

The Senate met from 12.30pm until 10.27pm

Privilege matter

The President made a [statement](#) relating to a matter of privilege raised by Senator Nettle concerning possible false or misleading evidence given by officers at estimates hearings of the Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee in May 2004 and February 2005 relating to the Government's knowledge that Mr Mamdouh Habib had been taken to Egypt. Senator Nettle gave a [notice of motion](#) to refer the matter to the Committee of Privileges.

Legislation

Bills and related documents available on BillsNet <www.aph.gov.au/bills/index.htm>

Bills considered

The following bill was introduced

- ❑ Superannuation Legislation Amendment Bill 2007 [passed by the House of Representatives on 13 September 2007]

The following bill was debated

- ❑ Trade Practices Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2007—Committee of the whole commenced—3 Government amendments agreed to and 2 Australian Democrat amendments to be determined [see Journal entries nos [3](#) and [26](#)]

The following bill was passed

- ❑ Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Democratic Plebiscites) Bill 2007 [This bill will now be assented to]

Notices of motion

To introduce bills

- ❑ Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007—notice given by the Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding) [private senator's bill]
- ❑ Australian Crime Commission Amendment Bill 2007—notice given by the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation (Senator Abetz)

To consider bills together

The Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation (Senator Abetz) gave a notice of motion to allow the following bills to be considered together:

- ❑ Social Security Amendment (2007 Measures No. 1) Bill 2007
- ❑ Social Security Amendment (2007 Measures No. 2) Bill 2007

To vary the hours of meeting

A [notice](#) was given by the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation (Senator Abetz) to vary the hours of meeting for the remainder of this week to allow the Government's legislative program to be considered.

To exempt a bill from the cut-off order [to enable consideration this period of sittings]

- ❑ Australian Crime Commission Amendment Bill 2007—notice given by the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation (Senator Abetz)

Messages from the House of Representatives

- ❑ Australian Postal Corporation Amendment (Quarantine Inspection and Other Measures) Bill 2007—agreeing to the bill without amendments
 - ❑ Northern Territory National Emergency Response Amendment (Alcohol) Bill 2007—agreeing to the bill without amendments
- [These bills will now be assented to]

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

Delegated legislation

See [Disallowance Alert](#) for a complete list of notices of motion to disallow (and outcomes)

Notice of intention to withdraw a notice

The Chair of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances gave notice of his intention to withdraw a [notice](#) to disallow [principles](#) that outline the process that the Secretary to the Department of Health and Ageing will undertake in investigating complaints regarding the responsibilities of a residential or community aged care provider.

See **Documents** for details of instruments [Clerk's documents] tabled

Committees

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

Procedural change

The Senate agreed that a [sessional order](#) adopted on 6 October 2005 relating to the unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings operate as an order of continuing effect.

Estimates questions on notice—failure to provide answers

[Senator Carr](#) asked the Minister representing the Minister for Education, Science and Training (Senator Brandis) why answers had not been provided to 145 questions placed on notice during the consideration of the 2007-08 budget estimates by the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee. [The Minister](#) provided an explanation. A [motion](#) to take note of the Minister's response was agreed to.

Reports tabled

Reports on legislation

- ❑ Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Fair Bank and Credit Card Fees) Amendment Bill 2007 and National Market Driven Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007—[Interim report](#)—Economics Committee [Recommendation of the interim report adopted and reporting date for the final reports extended to last day of the 41st Parliament]

Other reports

- ❑ Electoral Matters Joint Committee—[Review](#) of certain aspects of the administration of the Australian Electoral Commission
- ❑ Privileges Committee—[132nd report](#)—Person referred to in the Senate (Mr Chalid Muhammad and Mr Nurkholis on behalf of staff of the Indonesian Forum for Environment (WALHI)) [A motion to adopt the report was agreed to]

Proposed reference

The Senate did not agree to refer [matters](#) relating to the Australia-Russia Nuclear Cooperation Agreement to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee.

Notices of motion given

To hold meetings when the Senate is sitting:

- ❑ Community Affairs Committee—20 September 2007 from 3.30pm—Cost of living pressures on older Australians
- ❑ Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee—19 September 2007 from 11.15am to 1.15pm—Review of Auditor-General's reports

Documents

Orders for the production of documents—Orders with continuing effect

Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the Internet

Statements of compliance for [various agencies](#) were tabled [Letters of advice about certain files created by departments and agencies are [required to be tabled](#) twice a year]

Departmental and agency contracts published on the Internet

A statement of compliance for the Defence portfolio was tabled [Letters of advice about certain contracts valued at \$100 000 or more entered into by departments and agencies are [required to be tabled](#) twice a year]

Documents tabled

- ❑ Australian parliamentary delegation—Report—Canada and Germany—14 to 28 April 2007
- ❑ [Clerk's documents](#) [legislative instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- ❑ [3 petitions](#)

Other business

[Questions without notice and issues arising during question time—first question](#)
[Adjournment debate—first speaker](#)

Motion agreed to

- ❑ Health equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders—moved by Senator Siewert [debated as a matter of urgency—[first speaker](#)]

Motion negatived

- ❑ [Proposed pulp mill in Tasmania](#)—moved by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)

Notices of motion

[Notices of motion](#) given today are available in the Senate Journals.

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Online

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

It is issued by the Senate Table Office as a convenient summary of each day's proceedings in the Senate. For a complete account see the official record, the *Journals of the Senate*, on the Internet at <http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/pubs/index.htm>

Related resources

The *Order of Business* (or 'Senate Red') and the *Dynamic Red* (which updates the *Order of Business* throughout the sitting day) are also available on the Internet at www.aph.gov.au/senate

Contact details

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