

2008

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

THE SENATE

NOTICE PAPER

No. 6

MONDAY, 17 MARCH 2008

The Senate meets at 12.30 pm

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Notifications prefixed by an () appear for the first time.*

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Orders of the Day

1 Governor-General's Opening Speech

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Wortley—That the following address-in-reply be agreed to:

To His Excellency the Governor-General

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

We, the Senate of the Commonwealth of Australia in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament (*Senator Eggleston, in continuation, 13 March 2008*).

***2 Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment Bill 2008—**
(*Minister for Human Services, Senator Ludwig*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Ludwig, 13 March 2008*).

3 Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2007-2008

Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2007-2008—(*Special Minister of State, Senator Faulkner*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Faulkner, 11 March 2008*).

4 Tax Laws Amendment (2008 Measures No. 1) Bill 2008—(*Special Minister of State, Senator Faulkner*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Faulkner, 11 March 2008*).

ORDERS OF THE DAY RELATING TO COMMITTEE REPORTS AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSES AND AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS

Order of the Day relating to Auditor-General's reports

**1 Auditor-General—Audit report no. 26 of 2007-08—Performance audit—
Tasmanian forest industry development and assistance programs—
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Abetz—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Wortley, 13 March 2008*).

GENERAL BUSINESS

Notices of Motion

Notice given 13 February 2008

- 18 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin):** To move—That the Senate—
- (a) notes:
- (i) the contempt in which the Australian Labor Party (ALP) has historically held upper houses around the country, including a platform to abolish all upper houses until 1979, the abolition of the upper house in Queensland and a current policy to abolish the South Australian Legislative Council,
 - (ii) that the Prime Minister (Mr Rudd) has reduced the number of sitting weeks in the Senate in 2008, and
 - (iii) that the Deputy Prime Minister (Ms Gillard) has already demanded legislation be passed without adequate scrutiny in the Senate; and
- (b) given the above, condemns the Rudd Labor Government for continuing the ALP's legacy of inherent contempt for the Senate.

Notice given 14 February 2008

- 26 **Senator Bartlett:** To move—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to establish an Office of National Commissioner for Children and Young People, and for related purposes. *National Commissioner for Children Bill 2008.*

Notice given 11 March 2008

- 29 **Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison):** To move—That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Education, no later than 4.30 pm on Thursday, 20 March 2008, a copy of the Department of Education, Science and Training review of private school funding report.
- 37 **Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison):** To move—That the Senate—
- (a) notes:
- (i) that Amnesty International, CARE International UK, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Medecins du Monde UK, Oxfam, Save the Children UK and Trocaire, in the week beginning 2 March 2008 said that the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip is now worse than it was at any time since Israel occupied the Palestinian territories in 1967,
 - (ii) that those organisations in the week beginning 9 March 2008 described Israel's blockade of Gaza as a collective punishment of the entire Gazan population of 1.5 million and said it was unacceptable and illegal,
 - (iii) that the situation has worsened since Israel imposed the severe restrictions over the Gaza Strip and hindered the movement of residents and goods,
 - (iv) that poverty levels in the Gaza Strip are rising and that hospitals are suffering 12 hour power cuts each day while water and sewage systems are close to collapse,

- (v) that the United Nations (UN) emergency relief coordinator in Gaza says medical services are deteriorating, private industry has more or less collapsed, hospitals lack sufficient beds, drugs, resuscitation devices, needles and blood to meet the demand and more than 80 per cent of the population are receiving emergency rations from UN agencies as their main source of food,
 - (vi) that 40 per cent of the Gaza population has access to water for only a few hours a day and that municipal authorities lack the fuel and spare parts needed to maintain water delivery infrastructure which could collapse at any time and that 40 million litres of raw or partially-treated sewage is being pumped into the Mediterranean Sea every day with long-term risks to the environment, and
 - (vii) that the International Save the Children Alliance advised that hundreds of thousands of children are among those most at risk in the crisis in Gaza with increased levels of chronic disease, anaemia, diarrhoea and malnutrition in children under 5 years of age;
- (b) urges the Government to work with the international community and parties to the conflict to, as a matter of urgency:
- (i) establish procedures to manage the crossings and re-establish full humanitarian and commercial access to Gaza,
 - (ii) enforce the full implementation of the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access, which was announced by the United States Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, in Jerusalem on 15 November 2005,
 - (iii) develop a strategy that ensures the protection of children and other civilians in Gaza, while negotiations continue for an end to the violence and a comprehensive settlement of the conflict, and
 - (iv) increase the levels of humanitarian aid in Gaza to reflect the severity of need; and
- (c) considers that celebrating the 60th anniversary of Israel's statehood should not be interpreted as endorsement of action that gave rise to such crises or approval of the failure to deliver peace and a separate state for Palestinians, an objective that appears less likely now than at any time in the past 60 years.

Notice given 13 March 2008

*43 **Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison):** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes the study published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health (Vol. 31, Issue 6, pp 551-7, December 2007) by Yazahmeidi and Holman, School of Population Health, University of Western Australia, 'A survey of suppression of public health information by Australian governments' which found that:
- (i) just under one-third of academics had witnessed the suppression of health information by Australian governments in the past 5.5 years,
 - (ii) more than one-fifth had experienced such events personally,
 - (iii) no state or territory in which the survey took place was immune,
 - (iv) governments most commonly hindered research by sanitising, delaying or prohibiting the publication of findings but 'there was no part of the research process beyond their reach',

- (v) most of the affected researchers believed that their work had been targeted because it drew attention to failings in health service delivery, uncovered bad news about the health of a vulnerable group, or pointed to a harmful exposure in the environment, and
 - (vi) in most instances the government agency seeking to suppress the health information succeeded and, consequently the public was left uninformed or given a false impression; and
- (b) calls on the Government to take up the recommendations of the study with state and territory governments, including:
- (i) adopting policies that match or exceed the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's 'Guidelines for managing conflict of interest in the public service',
 - (ii) adopting a charter by government health agencies and research and academic institutions that supports the independent role of health researchers in evaluating the health system,
 - (iii) establishing parliamentary ombudsmen or ombudswomen in mediating the resolution of complaints by researchers concerning suppression,
 - (iv) promoting a culture that avoids blame and values constructive criticism,
 - (v) promoting the role of institutional ethics committees in scrutinising the ethical behaviour of government agencies and researchers who work together, and
 - (vi) establishing a surveillance system to monitor the occurrence of suppression events and report on their trends.

***44 Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison):** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
 - (i) the South Australian Government has agreed to host the Asia Pacific Defence and Security exhibition and conference in Adelaide from 11 to 13 November 2008, and
 - (ii) the stated object of the exhibition and conference is to provide an international forum for arms manufacturers wishing to expand their business in the Asia Pacific region; and
- (b) calls on the South Australian Government to renege on its agreement to host the exhibition and conference.

***45 Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison):** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
 - (i) Crown Casino in Melbourne continues to burn large quantities of gas, and therefore contribute significantly to global warming, for the purpose of holding fireball shows at the front of the complex, and
 - (ii) the fireball shows take place approximately 3 000 times a year, and each show consists of hundreds of fireballs with diameters of between 3 and 7 metres; and
- (b) calls on the Victorian Government to introduce legislation that would prevent Crown Casino from continuing to hold the fireball shows.

Orders of the Day relating to Government Documents

1 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority—Report for 2006-07

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing (Senator McLucas), in continuation, 13 March 2008*).

2 National Native Title Tribunal—Report for 2006-07

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

3 Sydney Harbour Federation Trust—Report for 2006-07

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

4 Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO)—Report for 2006-07

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Bartlett, 14 February 2008*).

5 Indigenous Land Corporation—Report for 2006-07

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

6 Central Land Council—Report for 2006-07

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

7 Northern Land Council—Report for 2006-07

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

8 Torres Strait Regional Authority—Report for 2006-07

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

9 Natural Heritage Trust of Australia—Report for 2005-06

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

10 Tiwi Land Council—Report for 2006-07

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

11 Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission—Report for 2006-07

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

12 Department of Immigration and Citizenship—Report for 2006-07

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

13 Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal—Report for 2006-07

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

14 National Health and Medical Research Council—NHMRC Embryo Research Licensing Committee—Report on the operation of the *Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2002* for the period 1 April to 30 September 2007

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

15 *Migration Act 1958*—Section 486O—Assessment of appropriateness of detention arrangements—Government response to reports by the Commonwealth Ombudsman—Personal identifiers 221/07 to 346/07, dated 12 February 2008

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Bartlett—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

Orders of the Day

2 Qantas Sale (Keep Jetstar Australian) Amendment Bill 2007 [2008]—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Family First Party, Senator Fielding*)

Second reading (*restored 13 February 2008*).

3 Trade Practices (Creeping Acquisitions) Amendment Bill 2007 [2008]—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Family First Party, Senator Fielding*)

Second reading (*restored 13 February 2008*).

4 Defence Amendment (Parliamentary Approval of Overseas Service) Bill 2008—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Bartlett*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 13 February 2008*).

6 Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Fair Bank and Credit Card Fees) Amendment Bill 2008—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Family First Party, Senator Fielding*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Fielding, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

10 Marriage (Relationships Equality) Amendment Bill 2008—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Nettle*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Nettle, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

11 Cluster Munitions (Prohibition) Bill 2006 [2008]—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison, Leader of the Australian Greens, Senator Bob Brown and Senators Bishop and Bartlett*)

Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).

12 Constitution Alteration (Appropriations for the Ordinary Annual Services of the Government) 2001 [2008]—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senators Murray and Stott Despoja*)

Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).

- 13 **Constitution Alteration (Electors' Initiative, Fixed Term Parliaments and Qualification of Members) 2000 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Murray*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 14 **Electoral (Greater Fairness of Electoral Processes) Amendment Bill 2007 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Murray*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 15 **Electoral Amendment (Political Honesty) Bill 2003 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Murray*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 16 **Euthanasia Laws (Repeal) Bill 2004 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 17 **Genetic Privacy and Non-discrimination Bill 1998 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 18 **Ministers of State (Post-Retirement Employment Restrictions) Bill 2002 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senators Stott Despoja and Murray*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 20 **Parliamentary Charter of Rights and Freedoms Bill 2001 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 21 **Patents Amendment Bill 1996 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 22 **Peace and Non-Violence Commission Bill 2007 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 23 **Privacy (Data Security Breach Notification) Amendment Bill 2007 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 24 **Privacy (Extension to Political Acts and Practices) Amendment Bill 2006 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 25 **Protecting Children from Junk Food Advertising Bill 2006 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 26 **Public Interest Disclosures Bill 2007 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Murray*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 27 **Repatriation of Citizens Bill 2007 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison, and Senator Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).

- 28 **Republic (Consultation of the People) Bill 2001 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—*(Senator Stott Despoja)*
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 29 **Same-Sex Marriages Bill 2006 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—*(Senators Stott Despoja and Bartlett)*
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 30 **Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—*(Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison, and Senators Bartlett, Murray and Stott Despoja)*
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 31 **State Elections (One Vote, One Value) Bill 2001 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—*(Senator Murray)*
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 32 **Taxation Laws Amendment (Scholarships) Bill 2005 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—*(Senator Stott Despoja)*
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 33 **Textbook Subsidy Bill 2003 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—*(Senator Stott Despoja)*
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 34 **Uranium Mining in or near Australian World Heritage Properties (Prohibition) Bill 1998 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—*(Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison)*
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 35 **Workplace Relations (Guaranteeing Paid Maternity Leave) Amendment Bill 2007 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—*(Senator Stott Despoja)*
Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008*).
- 36 **Rural and Regional Australia**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nash—That the Senate—
(a) notes:
(i) the challenges facing Australia’s rural and regional communities, and
(ii) that the Government is showing its contempt of rural and regional Australia, including through cuts to rural and regional funding programs; and
(b) calls on the Labor Government to continue the strong commitment of the former Coalition Government to rural and regional Australia (*Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector (Senator Stephens), in continuation, 14 February 2008*).
- 37 **Special Broadcasting Service Amendment (Prohibition of Disruptive Advertising) Bill 2008**—(*Senate bill*)—*(Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison))*
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Allison, in continuation, 12 March 2008*).

38 **Migration Legislation Amendment (Migration Zone Excision Repeal) (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2006 [2008]**

Migration Legislation Amendment (Migration Zone Excision Repeal) Bill 2006 [2008]—(*Senate bills*)—(*Senator Bartlett*)

Second reading (*restored 12 March 2008*).

39 **Migration Legislation Amendment (Temporary Protection Visas Repeal) Bill 2006 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Bartlett*)

Second reading (*restored 12 March 2008*).

40 **Migration Legislation Amendment (Provisions Relating to Character and Conduct) Bill 2006 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Bartlett*)

Second reading (*restored 12 March 2008*).

41 **Migration Legislation Amendment (End of Mandatory Detention) Bill 2006 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Bartlett*)

Second reading (*restored 12 March 2008*).

42 **Migration Legislation Amendment (Complementary Protection Visas) Bill 2006 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Bartlett*)

Second reading (*restored 12 March 2008*).

43 **Migration Legislation Amendment (Access to Judicial Review of Migration Decisions) Bill 2007 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Bartlett*)

Second reading (*restored 12 March 2008*).

44 **Migration Legislation Amendment (Restoration of Rights and Procedural Fairness) Bill 2007 [2008]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Bartlett*)

Second reading (*restored 12 March 2008*).

*45 **Drink Container Recycling Bill 2008**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Family First Party, Senator Fielding*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Fielding, in continuation, 13 March 2008*).

*46 **Budget and the economy**

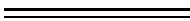
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Eggleston—That the Senate—

(a) notes:

(i) the concern of Australians given the impending budget cuts proposed by Labor's razor gang, and

(ii) that Labor is showing with its backflips and ill-conceived proposals that it has no idea how to run our trillion dollar economy; and

(b) calls on Labor's razor gang to ensure that no Australian will be worse off when the Budget is delivered in May 2008 (*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing (Senator McLucas), in continuation, 13 March 2008*).



BUSINESS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Next day of sitting (18 March 2008)

Business of the Senate—Notice of Motion

Notice given 13 February 2008

1 Senator Milne: To move—

- (1) That the Senate notes:
 - (a) the housing affordability crisis in Australia and the need for a national affordable housing agreement;
 - (b) the need to upgrade Australia's building stock and strengthen building regulations to increase the energy efficiency of existing and new buildings, both residential and commercial;
 - (c) the central role played by the Housing Industry Association in developing government policy;
 - (d) the relationship between housing affordability and mandatory privatised last resort builders warranty insurance particularly, the increasing number of complaints from builders and consumers concerning the failure of the last resort warranty insurance regime to provide consumer or builder protection; and
 - (e) the decision in March 2002 to remove all Commonwealth and state regulatory controls over last resort warranty insurance.
- (2) That the following matter be referred to the Economics Committee for inquiry and report by May 2008:

Australia's mandatory Last Resort Home Warranty Insurance scheme, including:

 - (a) the appropriateness and effectiveness of the current mandatory privatised Last Resort Builders Warranty Insurance scheme in providing appropriate consumer protection and industry management;
 - (b) the reasons for and consequences of the ministerial decisions relating to the removal of consumer protection provisions in respect of Corporations Regulation 7.1.12(2);
 - (c) the ramifications for the future supply of this insurance product following the draft recommendations from the Productivity Commission report released in December 2007;
 - (d) the full investigation of the market failure of this insurance product in Tasmania which has resulted in the Tasmanian Government announcing in January 2008 that the product is to be scrapped over the next 12 months;
 - (e) any potential reforms and their costs and benefits which may lead to appropriate consumer and builder protection and improved housing affordability; and
 - (d) any related matters.

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 Standing Committees

Reports to be presented on the 2007-08 additional estimates.

Government Business—Order of the Day

1 **Issues from the Advance to the Finance Minister as a final charge for the year ended 30 June 2007**

Consideration in committee of the whole (*13 February 2008*).

General Business—Notices of Motion

Notice given 11 March 2008

32 **Senator Murray:** To move—That, in view of:

- (a) the instances of developers being identified in investigations into corrupt influence in local government, and other levels of government;
- (b) public and media perceptions of improper conduct and influence by developers; and
- (c) calls for donations, loans, gifts and favours from developers to be prohibited,

the Senate calls on the Prime Minister (Mr Rudd) to put this matter before the Council of Australian Governments, with a view to designing amendments to all federal, state and territory electoral laws no later than 1 December 2008 either:

- (a) prohibiting donations, loans, or gifts by developers, either directly or indirectly, to candidates or political parties at any level of government; or
- (b) significantly improving and harmonising law, regulation and governance in this area.

35 **Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown):** To move—That the Senate:

- (a) having regard to:
 - (i) the 11th Australia-China Human Rights Dialogue held in Beijing on 30 July 2007,
 - (ii) the United Nations (UN) Olympics Truce, as passed by the UN General Assembly on 31 October 2007 (A/RES/62/4),
 - (iii) the 49th anniversary of the Tibetan Uprising of 10 March 1959,
 - (iv) the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with particular attention to Article 9, concerning arbitrary arrest and detention, Article 13 on the right to freedom of movement and Article 18 on the rights to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,
 - (v) the establishment of diplomatic relations between Australia and the People's Republic of China on 21 December 1972 resulting in Australia-China relations developing strongly, politically and economically, and
 - (vi) the Australia-China Strategic Partnership, established on 7 September 2007, which is of great importance for the relationship between Australia and China;
- (b) regrets that there have been no further rounds of the Sino-Tibetan dialogue since February 2006 and that the five rounds of talks between Chinese officials and representatives of the Dalai Lama from 2002 to 2006, led by his Special Envoy Lodi Gyari, brought no substantive results;

- (c) calls on the parties to make every effort to continue the dialogue and on the Chinese Government to engage in substantive negotiations, taking into due consideration the Dalai Lama's Middle Way Approach to the resolution of the Tibet issue; and
 - (d) reiterates its concern over the reports of continuing human rights violations in Tibet, including torture, arbitrary arrest and detention, repression of religious freedom, 'patriotic re-education' including forcing Tibetans to denounce the Dalai Lama, arbitrary restrictions on free movement, rehabilitation through labour camps and coercive resettlement.
- 41 **Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown):** To move—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to amend the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* to repeal provisions relating to group voting tickets and provide for preferential above-the-line voting, and for related purposes. *Commonwealth Electoral (Above-the-Line Voting) Amendment Bill 2008*.

On the tenth sitting day of 2008 (20 March 2008)

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 Standing Committees

Reports to be presented on annual reports tabled by 31 October 2007.

On 20 March 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 Community Affairs—Standing Committee

Report to be presented on the cost of living pressures on older Australians.

On 24 April 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport—Standing Committee

Report to be presented on the exposure drafts of the Wheat Export Marketing Bill 2008 and the Wheat Export Marketing (Repeal and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008.

On 28 April 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 Education, Employment and Workplace Relations—Standing Committee

Report to be presented on the provisions of the Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Bill 2008.

On 1 May 2008

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

1 **Economics—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on the provisions of the Tax Laws Amendment (Personal Income Tax Reduction) Bill 2008. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

2 **Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on the Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

Government Business—Order of the Day

*1 **Tax Laws Amendment (Personal Income Tax Reduction) Bill 2008**—(*Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Wong*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Wong, 13 March 2008*).

General Business—Order of the Day

5 **Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Greens, Senator Bob Brown*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Bob Brown, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

On the first day in the next period of sittings (13 May 2008)

Government Business—Orders of the Day

1 **Communications Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill 2008**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Senator Evans*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*12 March 2008*).

*2 **Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Trustee Board and Other Measures) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Minister for Human Services, Senator Ludwig*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*13 March 2008*).

On 15 May 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations.

On 30 May 2008

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

1 **Economics—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on the Renewable Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Power Percentage) Bill 2008. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

2 **Economics—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on the National Market Driven Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007 [2008]. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

General Business—Orders of the Day

9 **Renewable Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Power Percentage) Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison)**

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Allison, in continuation, 14 February 2008.*)

19 **National Market Driven Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007 [2008]—(Senate bill)—(Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison)**

Second reading (*restored 14 February 2008.*)

On 16 June 2008

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

1 **Agricultural and Related Industries—Select Committee**

Report to be presented.

2 **Housing Affordability in Australia—Select Committee**

Report to be presented.

3 **Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on the Stolen Generation Compensation Bill 2008. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

General Business—Order of the Day

8 **Stolen Generation Compensation Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Senator Bartlett)**

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 14 February 2008.*)

On 18 June 2008

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

1 **Community Affairs—Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on the Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007 [2008]. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

2 State Government Financial Management—Select Committee

Report to be presented.

General Business—Order of the Day

1 Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007 [2008]—(Senate bill)—(Leader of the Family First Party, Senator Fielding)

Second reading (*restored 13 February 2008*).

On 23 June 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 Environment, Communications and the Arts—Standing Committee

Report to be presented on the sexualisation of children in the media.

On 24 June 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 Standing Committees

Reports to be presented on the 2008-09 Budget estimates.

On 25 June 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 Community Affairs—Standing Committee

Report to be presented on the Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

General Business—Order of the Day

7 Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008—(Senate bill)—(Leader of the Family First Party, Senator Fielding)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Fielding, in continuation, 14 February 2008*).

On 26 June 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 Community Affairs—Standing Committee

Report to be presented on mental health services in Australia.

On 4 September 2008

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport—Standing Committee

Report to be presented on climate change and the Australian agricultural sector.

BILLS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES

Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007 [2008]‡

Referred to the Community Affairs Committee (*referred 14 February 2008; reporting date: 18 June 2008*).

National Market Driven Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007 [2008]‡

Referred to the Economics Committee (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 30 May 2008*).

Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008‡

Referred to the Community Affairs Committee (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 25 June 2008*).

Renewable Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Power Percentage) Bill 2008‡

Referred to the Economics Committee (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 30 May 2008*).

Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008‡

Referred to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 1 May 2008*).

Stolen Generation Compensation Bill 2008‡

Referred to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 16 June 2008*).

Tax Laws Amendment (Personal Income Tax Reduction) Bill 2008 [Provisions]‡

Referred to the Economics Committee (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 1 May 2008*).

Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Bill 2008 [Provisions]

Referred to the Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee (*referred 14 February 2008; reporting date: 28 April 2008*).

Further information about the progress of these bills may be found in the Senate Daily Bills Update at www.aph.gov.au/parlinfo/billsnet/billsupd.pdf.

‡ Reference adopted by the Senate following a recommendation of the Selection of Bills Committee.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions remaining unanswered

Question Nos, as shown, from 1 to 284 remain unanswered for 30 or more days (see standing order 74(5)).

Notice given 12 February 2008

- 1 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—
 - (1) Is the Minister aware that the Melbourne Anglican Synod recently moved the following ‘without dissent’ motion: ‘That this Synod regrets the Government’s adoption of procedures for certain people seeking political asylum in Australia which exclude them from all public income support while withholding permission to work, thereby creating a group of beggars dependent on the Churches and charities for food and the necessities of life; and calls upon the Federal Government to review such procedures immediately and remove all practices which are manifestly inhumane and in some cases in contravention of our national obligations as a signatory of the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights’.
 - (2) Is the Minister aware that, as at 23 September 2007, material aid valued at \$1 608 925 has been distributed to the benefit of: (a) asylum seekers on bridging visas (\$840 456); (b) refugees from Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Sudan (\$743 100); and (c) tsunami victims in Sri Lanka (\$25 369).
 - (3) (a) When will the Government change the refugee laws so that asylum seekers do not continue to be ‘beggars dependent on the Churches and charities for food and the necessities of life’; and (b) if there is no intention to change the laws, how does the Government consider the needs of such people will be met in the future.
- 2 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—In regard to the [former] Minister’s press release of 8 May 2007, ‘\$150 million more for solar technology’, can details be provided of the ‘targeted scheme to support the design and installation of solar systems on commercial, industrial and iconic buildings’, including the budget, commencement date and criteria involved.
- 3 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—In regard to the approximately 300 000 Australians suffering from Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS):
 - (1) Is the Minister prepared to provide the necessary funds for the establishment of a research facility and centre of excellence for ME/CFS, in order to address the lack of biomedical research into the illness.
 - (2) (a) Will funds and access to expert resources be provided to improve support services to sufferers and their carers and to raise awareness within the community on management and prevention strategies; and (b) will support and funding be provided to the national association, ME/CFS Australia.

6 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the answer to question on notice no. 3242 (Senate *Hansard*, 10 September 2007, p. 191): using existing Australian facilities, how long would it take to dispose of the stockpile of hexachlorobenzene waste at Botany Bay, Sydney.

7 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—In regard to Gunns Limited's proposed pulp mill in Bell Bay, Tasmania:

- (1) Who will be appointed to the Independent Expert Group.
- (2) How stringently will the group be expected to interpret the conditions placed on the mill.
- (3) (a) Will the Government insist on longer-term and more comprehensive studies relating to the hydrodynamics of the 30 billion litres of effluent which will be released by the mill each year; and (b) given that the \$2 billion mill will be in construction when the studies are completed, will the Government withdraw approval for the mill to operate if the expectations are not met.
- (4) Is the Minister aware that the wood supply agreement has been finalised but that it contains scant protection for high conservation value forests.
- (5) How will the Government honour its election promise to ensure that as little high conservation value forest as possible is fed to the mill.

8 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—

- (1) What action will the Government take to remedy the critical situation of wetlands such as the Coorong and the Macquarie Marshes.
- (2) Will the Minister fast-track the return of water to these wetlands; if so, how.
- (3) Given the obligations of Australia under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, how will the Government explain the dire state of many of Australia's wetlands at the Ramsar conference of the parties in October and November 2008.
- (4) Is there evidence of environmental water theft in Ramsar sites, such as the Macquarie Marshes; if so, what steps will be taken to protect the water supply of these sites.

11 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—With reference to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia in December 2007: (a) which individuals were included in the Australian Government delegation to the conference; and (b) for each of these people, which organisation did she or he represent.

Senator Minchin: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 13-48)—As at 26 November 2007, with reference to the department and all agencies in the Minister's portfolio:

- (1) How many employees are engaged in positions responsible for public affairs, media management, liaison with the media and media monitoring.
- (2) What are the responsibilities of these staff.
- (3) What are the Australian Public Service classifications of these positions.

(4) For each of the financial years 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, what is the current operating budget for these media-related sections within the department or agency.

- 13 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- 14 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 15 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- 16 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
- 17 Minister representing the Treasurer
- 18 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- 19 Special Minister of State
- 20 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- 21 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 22 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- 23 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- 24 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- 25 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- 26 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- 27 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- 28 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- 29 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- 30 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- 31 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- 32 Minister for Human Services
- 33 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- 34 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- 35 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- 36 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- 37 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- 38 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- 39 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- 40 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
- 41 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- 42 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation
- 43 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- 44 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- 45 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- 46 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- 47 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- 48 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

Senator Minchin: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 49-84)—As at 26 November 2007, with reference to the department and all agencies in the Minister's portfolio:

- (1) What is the total number of permanent staff employed on a: (a) full-time; (b) part time; or (c) part-time, equivalent basis.
- (2) How many employees are employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period.
- (3) What are the base and top level salaries of: (a) Australian Public Service level 1 to 6 officers; (b) executive level officers; (c) Senior Executive Service (SES) officers; and (d) equivalent officers.
- (4) How many officers are employed at executive level and SES level.

- 49 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- 50 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 51 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- 52 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
- 53 Minister representing the Treasurer
- 54 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- 55 Special Minister of State
- 56 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- 57 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 58 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- 59 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- 60 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- 61 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- 62 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- 63 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- 64 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- 65 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- 66 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- 67 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- 68 Minister for Human Services
- 69 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- 70 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- 71 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- 72 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- 73 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- 74 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- 75 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- 76 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
- 77 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women

- 78 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation
- 79 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- 80 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- 81 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- 82 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- 83 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- 84 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

Senator Minchin: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 85-90)—With reference to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia from 3 to 14 December 2007:

- (1) What was the length of stay of the Minister, the Parliamentary Secretary and any ministerial staff in Bali.
- (2) For the duration of the Minister's stay, and for the stay of any Parliamentary Secretary assisting the Minister, what was the total cost of: (a) travel; (b) accommodation; and (c) any other expenses.
- (3) (a) How many ministerial staff or family accompanied the Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary; and (b) for these people, what was the total cost of: (a) travel; (b) accommodation; and (c) any other expenses.
- (4) (a) How many officers from the department were in attendance at the conference; (b) what was the duration of attendance at the conference by these officers; and (c) for these officers, what was the total cost of: (i) travel, (ii) accommodation, and (iii) any other expenses.

- 85 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- 86 Minister representing the Treasurer
- 87 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- 88 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 89 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- 90 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

91 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the International Energy Agency (IEA) considers that coal-fired power stations which are more than 10 years old may not be able to be retro-fitted with clean coal technology without expensive upgrades.
- (2) How many coal-fired power stations in Australia are: (a) between 10 and 20 years old; (b) between 20 and 30 years old; (c) between 30 and 40 years old; and (d) more than 40 years old.
- (3) Is the Minister aware that the Owen Inquiry into Electricity Supply in New South Wales (Owen inquiry): (a) suggested energy losses of up to 30 per cent if greenhouse gases are captured and stored; and (b) indicated that clean coal technology is unlikely to be ready before 2020.
- (4) Does the Government have any evidence that contradicts the IEA and the Owen inquiry advice; if so, what is that evidence.
- (5) Will criteria for the proposed \$500 million National Clean Coal Fund take into account views of the IEA and the Owen inquiry; if so, in what way.

- 92 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the Renewable Remote Power Generation Programme, initiated in 2001:
- (1) For each year of its operation, what has been the expenditure on the program,
 - (2) How many recipients, in each of the categories of individuals, pastoral stations, other businesses and aboriginal communities, have been recipients of funding under the program.
 - (3) What is the estimated level of displacement of diesel fuel due to the program.
 - (4) What is the estimated level of greenhouse abatement due to the program: (a) to date; and (b) to 2010.
- 93 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy—
- (1) In the lead-up to the 2007 federal election, was there any appointments or reappointments to the Board of the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS); if so: (a) who; (b) on what dates was the appointment made and accepted; and (c) for what period.
 - (2) (a) Can the Minister confirm that SBS staff are gagged by way of a confidentiality agreement; and (b) can a copy of a typical confidentiality agreement be provided.
 - (3) Can the Minister confirm that ordinary workers at SBS are not allowed to discuss any objections they may have about advertising on SBS with the mass media; if so, what is the reason for this ban.
 - (4) (a) What percentage of programming and how many hours is devoted to programs in Languages Other Than English (LOTE) in the evening prime time slot on a nightly basis on the main SBS television channel, that is, not SBS digital 2; and (b) what percentage is in English.
 - (5) Are there any advertisements in LOTE programs on SBS television: if so: (a) how much; and (b) are such advertisements in the same LOTE as the program LOTE to air or are such advertisements placed in English language programs.
 - (6) Does SBS television broadcast any English lesson programs aimed at new immigrants; if so, how many hours a week and in what time slots.
 - (7) In 2007, which programs were televised with breaks inserted by SBS in the circumstances where, those programs when supplied to SBS in their original format had not been produced, assembled or compiled with provision for any commercial breaks, such as British Broadcasting Corporation programs or cinema-release movies etc.
 - (8) Given that the 2006 SBS 'Codes of Practice' makes no provision for a person to dispute the SBS interpretation of a 'natural break' by way of a formal complaint, and that section 5 of the code refers the placement of breaks to the 'Guidelines for the Placement of Breaks in SBS Television Programs' and also that under section 8 of the code, SBS is only required to respond to a formal complaint made under the code and not under the guidelines: how does SBS deal or propose to deal with: (a) complaints about a program being interrupted for a commercial break; and (b) objections to the SBS interpretation of a 'natural break'.

- (9) Why is the definition of 'natural break' in the guidelines different from the definition in the *Special Broadcasting Service Act 1991*.
- (10) In relation to natural breaks are there any instances where guidelines 1.1 to 1.8 and 1.10 have been over-ridden by guideline 1.9; if so, can details be provided.
- (11) Is it the case that complaints concerning natural breaks cannot be made to the Australian Communications and Media Authority; if so, why.
- (12) Can details be provided of informal and formal complaints received by SBS in 2007 that related specifically to advertising and the interruption of programs for commercial breaks; if so, in each instance, what was the response by SBS, including those lodged as formal complaints but not recognised as such by SBS.
- (13) For the 12 months to 31 December 2007, how much revenue did SBS receive from all television advertising.
- (14) How much revenue did SBS receive from federal and state government advertising on SBS television for the 12 months to: (a) 31 December 2006; and (b) 31 December 2007.
- (15) If SBS was to stop interrupting programs for advertisements in 2008 and run commercials between programs only, as used to be the case until late 2006, what would be the estimated decrease in revenue, if any, from the 2007 level of revenue.
- (16) If SBS was to stop interrupting programs for advertisements and run advertisements between programs only, as used to be the case until late 2006, how much government funding, in dollar terms and in percentages of federal government funding for SBS, would be required to maintain current SBS operations for the next 12 months.
- (17) How much extra funding in dollar terms and in percentages of federal government funding for SBS would be required for the next 12 months in order to drop advertising completely.

Senator Stott Despoja: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 94-95)—

- (1) Has the Minister or the department received any complaints regarding the practices of the Australian International Trade Association (AITA), including the practice of arranging inadequate visas for Australian teachers recruited to teach in China.
- (2) Does the practice of facilitating employment in China with inadequate visas breach any Commonwealth laws.
- (3) Has the department ever engaged in business with AITA, Mr Michael Guo or Mr Steven Guo (also known as Steven Moon); if so, can details be provided of the nature and extent of any such dealings.
- (4) Has the department or any of Australia's consulates or embassies received any complaints in relation to the conduct of AITA, Mr Michael Guo or Mr Steven Guo; if so, can details be provided of the nature and extent of any such complaint.
- (5) Will ministers be required to declare membership of AITA's 'honorary board', pursuant to the Prime Minister's 'Standards of Ministerial Ethics'.

94 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship

95 Minister representing the Minister for Trade

Senator Allison: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 96-98)—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the study by Dr Judy Carman of the Institute of Health and Environmental Research in July 2006, commissioned by the Western Australian Minister for Agriculture and Food, which reviewed abstracts listed on the AgBioWorld website (www.agbioworld.org) and found that they did not demonstrate that genetically-modified (GM) crops were safe for human consumption, as claimed, and that GM crops may be harmful to human health.
- (2) Is the Minister aware that: (a) of the nine abstracts remaining at the end of this process, the majority (six abstracts, or 67 per cent) show potentially adverse effects of GM crops on the health of the experimental animals, while three (33 per cent) found no adverse effects; (b) the six papers showing adverse effects found evidence that GM potatoes could harm the liver and gastrointestinal tract and GM soy could adversely affect the liver and pancreas; (c) one paper found that GM DNA from GM corn was detectable in the intestinal contents of pigs up to 48 hours after eating, making it available for uptake into tissues and gut bacteria; and (d) three papers found no adverse effects: (i) on the development and function of mouse testes from eating GM corn, (ii) on some biochemical measurements from eating GM potatoes, and (iii) on some pathology, haematology, biochemistry and urine measurements from eating GM soy.
- (3) In light of this study, will the Minister consider a moratorium on further GM crops in Australia, pending further independent, long-term, peer reviewed, multi-generational animal and human feeding studies, measuring outcomes relevant to human health.
- (4) In regard to the Australia New Zealand Food Authority's approval, in 2003, of the applications of Monsanto Aust Ltd and Bayer Crop Science Pty Ltd for GM canola: (a) which independent, long-term, peer reviewed, multi-generational animal and human feeding studies, measuring outcomes relevant to human health, were relied upon; and (b) which, if any, of these studies was conducted in Australia.
- (5) Can the Minister confirm that, of the crop samples so far grown, none has been released for independent, human health-related testing; if so, why.
- (6) Is there any requirement for Food Standards Australia New Zealand and the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator to review approvals of GM crops and foods as new information is received; if not: (a) why not; (b) when will the Minister announce such a requirement; and (c) how and when should such new information be reviewed.
- (7) (a) If GM canola is introduced into Australia and it is found to have adverse effects on the economy, farming systems, people or the environment, what processes are in place to remove the canola from Australia and/or the food supply; and (b) how effective are these processes likely to be.

96 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing

97 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing

98 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing

- 99 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—
- (1) Is the Minister aware of plans by the United Kingdom's Department of Health to pilot a scheme which involves the training of pharmacists to prescribe the contraceptive pill in the same way that a general practitioner would, in order to improve access to contraception and reduce unplanned pregnancies.
 - (2) What data is available on the relationship between contraceptive use and the rate of unintended pregnancy in Australia.
 - (3) Does data available to the Government suggest that the requirement to obtain a prescription for the contraceptive pill and/or limited access to general practitioners is a factor in reducing contraceptive usage rates.
 - (4) What steps, if any, does the Government propose to take to improve knowledge about, and use of, all methods of contraception.
- 100 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs—Will the Government consider awarding Gold Cards to allied merchant seamen who served during World War II and who currently receive a services pension with a health condition; if not, why not.
- 104 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the Sustainable Cities program, negotiated by the Australian Democrats with the Howard Government as part of the *Measures for a Better Environment* package in the 2003-04 Budget:
- (1) In regard to the built environment, what progress has been made towards:
(a) promoting sustainability of the built environment; and (b) developing a comparative study of building standards and codes, model building specifications and best practice material and guidelines for green buildings, beyond the National Australian Built Environment Rating System.
 - (2) In regard to the enhancement of environment education in schools: (a) what progress has been made towards assisting primary and secondary school students to understand how to improve the efficiency of resource use and integrating this into the day-to-day running of schools; (b) how many environment management systems have been put in place for demonstration schools; (c) of these demonstration schools, which are in low socioeconomic areas; and (d) to date, what has been the cost of this program.
 - (3) In regard to the green car rating scheme: (a) what evidence is there that the Green Vehicle Guide (GVG) has influenced vehicle purchasing decisions; (b) will the Government consider making it mandatory to publish GVG ratings on advertising and marketing material for new car sales; if not, why not; and (c) will the Government consider introducing mandatory energy efficiency standards for imported and locally manufactured vehicles; if not, why not.
- 107 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—
- (1) Is the Government aware that, according to clinical trials conducted by the United States of America's National Cancer Institute, Herceptin has been shown to reduce the risk of recurrence by approximately 30 per cent for people with HER-2 gene amplification in early stage breast cancer.

- (2) In the light of these findings, will the Government now consider allowing patients to access Herceptin on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for longer than the current limit of 12 months; if not, why not.

109 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs—

- (1) Does the Government stand by its commitment to support a nuclear weapons convention, made on 14 August 2007 by the then Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Robert McClelland in a speech to the United Nations Association.
- (2) Does the Government still consider the idea of a nuclear weapons convention as ‘responsible and timely’; if so, to what extent and in what manner.
- (3) Will the Government support moves to implement a nuclear weapons convention in the terms suggested by the Middle Powers Initiative and the updated model nuclear weapons convention, adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly as a discussion document in December 2007.
- (4) In detail, what is the Government’s response to the updated model nuclear weapons convention, tabled by Malaysia and Costa Rica in the UN General Assembly Plenary in December 2007.
- (5) Will the Government proceed with the creation of a new Canberra Commission, as promised by the Prime Minister (Mr Rudd) prior to the 2007 election; if so, when.
- (6) (a) Is the Minister aware that a key recommendation of the original Canberra Commission was the lowering of the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems; and (b) how has the Government decided to respond to that recommendation and to recommendation 17 of the final report of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Committee, chaired by Dr Hans Blix and tabled on 1 June 2006, to the same effect.
- (7) Does the Government consider the UN resolution ‘Renewed determination toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons’ (the renewed determination) to be an appropriate response.
- (8) In regard to the more recent resolution L.29 on decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons system, co-sponsored by New Zealand, Chile, Nigeria, Sweden and Switzerland: (a) in what way does it differ from the renewed determination; (b) why did Japan, a co-sponsor of the renewed determination, vote in favour of L.29; (c) were there any reasons, other than the exigencies of time, for the incoming Government not to have voted in support of resolution L.29 on operating status as Japan, Germany, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, and New Zealand did; (d) what is the reaction of the Government to the passage of that text by the UN General Assembly in a vote of 136 to 3; (e) why did the three nations, with whom Australia so frequently votes, vote for this resolution while Australia abstained; (f) why was this abstention maintained in the UN General Assembly Plenary; (g) from which non-government organisations did the Government receive correspondence suggesting that it ought to change its vote in the Plenary; and (h) is there anything in the text of resolution L.29 that is, or could be interpreted as being, in any way destabilising; if so, what constructive changes might be made to the resolution.

- (9) Will the Government try to advance the issue of nuclear weapons operating status: (a) at the 2008 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee (NPT PrepCom); (b) at the next UN General Assembly First Committee; and/or (c) in its discussions with the United States of America and/or Russia.
- (10) Will the Government consider working together with: (a) New Zealand, Chile, Nigeria, Sweden and Switzerland at the NPT PrepCom to write a working paper on nuclear weapons operational status; (b) the New Agenda group, both on this issue and more widely on nuclear disarmament issues at the NPT PrepCom; and (c) the New Agenda and the Non-Aligned Movement groups, as well as the western groups and the nuclear weapons states, to promote ongoing progress in nuclear disarmament and strategic stability both via the measures set out in the final report of the Year 2000 NPT review and in the renewed determination, and via a lowering in nuclear weapons operational readiness.
- (11) What further steps will the Government take towards: (a) lowering nuclear weapons operational readiness; and (b) bringing the world closer to the creation and implementation of a nuclear weapons convention, along the lines of the updated model convention submitted to the UN General Assembly Plenary.

110 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—

- (1) Since the Photovoltaic Rebate Programme started: (a) how many applications for the rebate have been received by the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO); and (b) how many rebates have been granted.
- (2) Since the Solar Hot Water Rebate Programme started: (a) how many applications for the rebate have been received by the AGO; and (b) how many rebates have been granted.
- (3) Since the Renewable Remote Power Generation Programme started: (a) how many applications under the program have been received by the AGO; and (b) how many applications have been granted.
- (4) Why has there been a delay in the processing and funding of the rebates.

111 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—

- (1) Is the Government aware of recent studies suggesting that: (a) sea levels are currently rising at a rate of 3 centimetres per decade; (b) if warming slows down at about +3°C, sea levels will continue rising by several metres in subsequent centuries; (c) a rise of approximately 2°C, which is forecast within the next several decades, could result in extensive melting of large parts of the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets, raising sea levels by several metres; (d) glaciers and ice caps fringing Greenland and West Antarctica are already showing rapid ice melt rates and decreasing snow falls; (e) sea levels were between 13 and 27 metres higher than today in the Pliocene era, 3 million years ago when temperatures were 2 to 3°C higher; and (f) approximately 130 000 years ago, when temperatures were 2°C higher, sea levels were between 6 and 8 metres higher than current levels.
- (2) What evidence, if any, does the Government have to suggest that these sea levels, which occurred at temperatures well within the projections of the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, would not result with similar temperatures in the future.

- (3) How does the Government regard the risk, expressed by many scientists, of global warming reaching ‘tipping points’ involving the release of methane and a decrease in the ocean’s capacity to absorb carbon dioxide, which would result in the acceleration of climate change out of human control.
- (4) For the purposes of informing its policies on greenhouse abatement and climate change mitigations and adaptation, what levels above the pre-industrial age is the Government using as objectives for the years 2020, 2050 and 2100 for: (a) atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide; (b) global average near-surface air temperature; and (c) the scale of sea level rise.
- (5) If levels have not yet been identified: (a) when will they be identified; and (b) by what process.

112 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Defence—

- (1) If the Government has not already procured SMArt 155 munitions, does it intend to.
- (2) In regard to the negotiation of a treaty to ban cluster munitions through the Oslo Process, does the Government: (a) believe that SMArt 155 munitions should be exempted from any treaty that bans cluster munitions; if so, what is the justification for this position; (b) oppose the inclusion of a transition period during which the use of cluster munitions would be permitted under the treaty; (c) support provisions that would prohibit a state party from being involved in the use of prohibited cluster munitions belonging to another country; and (d) support the view that any submunition-based weapons which might fall outside the definition of ‘cluster munition’ under the treaty should, if they are to be acquired by, or are currently in the possession of, the Government, meet certain effects-based criteria (e.g. in relation to the risk of unexploded ordnance) and cumulative technical criteria (e.g. in relation to self-destruct and self-deactivation mechanisms); if so, what specifically would these criteria be.
- (3) Does the Government support the decision by the Government of Israel not to provide de-miners in Lebanon with maps indicating the locations of cluster munition drops which took place during the war in 2006; if not, is the Government willing to publicly condemn the Government of Israel for that decision.

113 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Defence— Does the Government intend to maintain: (a) its status as a nuclear umbrella state, by providing bases, ports and other infrastructure to the United States of America (US) for its nuclear war-fighting apparatus, thereby lending support to the idea that nuclear weapons bring security; if so, what is the justification for maintaining this status; and (b) the decades-long policy of neither confirming or denying whether and when US nuclear-armed warships enter Australian harbours.

114 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—With reference to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission report, *Same-Sex: Same Entitlements*:

- (1) Does the Government intend to:
 - (a) introduce an omnibus bill to remove discrimination from the 58 Commonwealth laws identified by the report as discriminating against same-sex couples and their families; if not, why not;

- (b) remove all such discrimination from Commonwealth laws within a particular time frame; if so, what is that time frame;
 - (c) enact legislation that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexuality and/or gender identity and provide an avenue of legal redress to those who experience such discrimination; if so, when;
 - (d) create a national relationship registry that would allow opposite-sex and same-sex couples to register their relationships and giving such relationships automatic recognition under Commonwealth law;
 - (e) accept referrals of power from state governments over property division to enable the Commonwealth Government to treat same-sex couples in the same way as opposite-sex couples for the purposes of property law;
 - (f) engage with state governments to achieve fairer laws in regard to parenting presumptions for, and adoptions by, people in same-sex relationships; and/or
 - (g) create a phase-in period for the social security changes recommended in the report as a way of mitigating adverse effects of the changes on the lives of those concerned; if so, how long will the phase-in period be.
- (2) Following the enactment of legislation aimed at implementing the recommendations of the report, does the Government intend to:
- (a) conduct an audit of government policy and regulation instructions potentially effected by the legislation; and/or
 - (b) initiate a public education campaign to notify same-sex couples of their new rights.

115 **Senator Ellison:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—With reference to media responses by the Minister, spokespersons and the department: Has the Minister established guidelines on which media enquiries will be responded to by the Minister and his office and which media enquiries will be responded to by the department; if so, what are these guidelines.

116 **Senator Ellison:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—With reference to overseas travel by the Minister and/or departmental and agency officers since 3 December 2007:

- (1) What overseas travel has been undertaken; (b) what was the purpose of the travel; (c) when did the Minister and/or officers depart Australia; (d) who travelled with the Minister and/or officers; and (e) when did the Minister and/or officers return to Australia.
- (2) (a) Who did the Minister and/or officers meet during the visit; and (b) what was the time and date of each meeting.
- (3) (a) On how many trips was the Minister and/or officers accompanied by a business delegation; and (b) can details be provided of each of these delegations.
- (4) Who met the cost of travel and other expenses associated with the trip.
- (5) What total travel and associated expenses, if any, were met by the department in relation to: (a) the Minister; (b) the Minister's family; (c) the Minister's staff; and (d) departmental and/or agency staff.

- (6) For the Minister, the Minister's family, the Minister's staff and for each departmental/agency officer, what were the costs, per expenditure item, including, but not necessarily limited to: (a) fares; (b) allowances; (c) accommodation; (d) hospitality; (e) insurance; and (f) other costs.
- (7) (a) What was the total cost of air charters used by the Minister or his office or department; and (b) on how many occasions did the Minister or his office or department and associated agencies charter aircraft; and (c) in each case, what was the name of the charter company that provided the service and the respective costs.

Senator Minchin: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 117-152)—With reference to Senator Minchin's letter to the Minister representing the Prime Minister, dated 1 February 2008, can the following information be provided prior to each round of Estimates and for Additional Estimates by 13 February 2008:

- (1) (a) What appointments have been made by the Government (through Executive Council, Cabinet and ministers) to statutory authorities, executive agencies and advisory boards within the Minister's portfolio; and (b) for each appointment, what are the respective appointee's credentials.
- (2) How many vacancies remain to be filled by ministerial (including Cabinet and Executive Council) appointments.
- (3) What grants have been approved by the Minister from within the Minister's portfolio.
- (4) What requests have been submitted to the Department of Finance and Deregulation to move funds within the Minister's portfolio.

117 Minister representing the Prime Minister

118 Minister representing the Minister for Education

119 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

120 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion

121 Minister representing the Treasurer

122 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship

123 Special Minister of State

124 Minister representing the Minister for Trade

125 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs

126 Minister representing the Minister for Defence

127 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing

128 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

129 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation

130 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

131 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

132 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

133 Minister for Climate Change and Water

134 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

135 Minister representing the Attorney-General

136 Minister for Human Services

- 137 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- 138 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- 139 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- 140 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- 141 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- 142 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- 143 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- 144 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
- 145 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- 146 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation
- 147 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel
- 148 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- 149 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- 150 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- 151 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- 152 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

Senator Minchin: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 153-188)—(a) Can details be provided of each election commitment the administration of which falls within the Minister's portfolio; and (b) what is the estimated value of each commitment.

- 153 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- 154 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 155 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- 156 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
- 157 Minister representing the Treasurer
- 158 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- 159 Special Minister of State
- 160 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- 161 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 162 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- 163 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- 164 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- 165 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- 166 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- 167 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- 168 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- 169 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- 170 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- 171 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- 172 Minister for Human Services

- 173 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- 174 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- 175 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- 176 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- 177 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- 178 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- 179 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- 180 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
- 181 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- 182 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation
- 183 Minister representing the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel
- 184 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- 185 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- 186 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- 187 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- 188 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

Senator Cormann: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 189-224)—With reference to the Government's pre-election commitment to release surplus land in order to help ease the housing affordability crisis: (a) since 24 November 2007, what land owned by the department or any agency in the Minister's portfolio has been identified as surplus to requirements; and (b) what land is currently for sale or in the process of being sold.

- 189 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- 190 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
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- 223 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- 224 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation

Senator Cormann: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 225-260)—

- (1) (a) Since 24 November 2007, what federal funding, programs and/or services to Western Australia have been cut and/or discontinued in any of the Minister's portfolio agencies; and (b) what savings have been made from these cuts.
- (2) (a) What plans does the Government have to cut and/or discontinue federal funding, programs and/or services to Western Australia in any of the Minister's portfolio agencies in the coming period; and (b) what estimated savings would be made from these cuts.

- 225 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- 226 Minister representing the Minister for Education
- 227 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
- 228 Minister representing the Minister for Social Inclusion
- 229 Minister representing the Treasurer
- 230 Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- 231 Special Minister of State
- 232 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
- 233 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 234 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- 235 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
- 236 Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- 237 Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- 238 Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- 239 Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
- 240 Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

- 241 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- 242 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- 243 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- 244 Minister for Human Services
- 245 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- 246 Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy
- 247 Minister representing the Minister for Tourism
- 248 Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs
- 249 Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer
- 250 Minister representing the Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- 251 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- 252 Minister representing the Minister for Housing
- 253 Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women
- 254 Minister representing the Minister for Employment Participation
- 255 Minister representing the Minister for Defence
- 256 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
- 257 Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- 258 Minister representing the Minister for Ageing
- 259 Minister representing the Minister for Youth
- 260 Minister representing the Minister for Sport

Senator Cormann: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 261-264)—With reference to the pre-election commitment that the Government will set a new 20 per cent renewable energy target to be met by 2020 and a further target to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by 60 per cent by 2050:

- (1) Has any modelling been conducted by any of the Minister's portfolio agencies to assess the economic impact of either of the targets, specifically on how it would impact on inflation; if not, why not; if so: (a) have findings of that modelling been presented to the Government and/or the Minister; (b) what were these findings; (c) has the Minister endorsed these findings; if not, why not.
- (2) When will the findings of any economic modelling referred to in paragraph (1) be made public.

- 261 Minister representing the Prime Minister
- 262 Minister representing the Treasurer
- 263 Minister for Climate Change and Water
- 264 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
- 265 **Senator Ray:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation—For each Minister, Assistant Minister or Parliamentary Secretary in each of the former government's portfolios: (a) was the Minister, Assistant Minister or Parliamentary Secretary provided with a pay television package by the department for: (i) the electorate office, (ii) the ministerial office in the home state, and/or (iii) home; and (b) if so, what was the cost of each pay television package.

266 **Senator Stott Despoja:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—

- (1) (a) On what basis would persons applying for a visa to enter Australia receive a warning from the department that their conduct and character may prevent them from being granted a visa in the future; and (b) is an individual ever given the opportunity to challenge the accuracy of the information which forms the basis of an immigration official's decision to warn a person.
- (2) For each year since 1996: (a) how many people were denied a visa; and (b) how many of these determinations were based on a person: (i) having a past criminal conviction, and (ii) having been charged but not convicted of a crime.
- (3) (a) In relation to character grounds, other than criminal convictions, on what grounds will a decision be made to refuse a visa; and (b) what steps, if any, do immigration officials take to verify the information.
- (4) For each year since 1996, how many times has the Minister or the previous Minister exercised his or her discretion pursuant to section 499 of the *Migration Act 1958* to permit the entry of people into Australia.
- (5) For each year since 1996, how many people have exercised their appeal rights to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in relation to decisions to refuse entry on the basis of character grounds.

267 **Senator Stott Despoja:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—

- (1) Under what legislation, regulations or codes are 'public interest disclosure' and/or whistleblower and like claims processed.
- (2) What criteria are used in the Australian Public Service generally to determine the validity of claims under 'public interest disclosure' situations, that is, by whistleblowers or people making whistleblower-like claims or allegations.
- (3) Does the criterion for assessing the validity of a whistleblower or a whistleblower type claim include any psychiatric or psychological assessment; if so, what is the legislative basis for such an assessment, including specific clauses.

269 **Senator Murray:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—

- (1) What costs would be incurred and what ramifications are there if the administration of the Medicare Levy surcharge was adjusted to ensure that it affects or is calculated for same-sex couples on the same basis as mixed-sex couples.
- (2) In view of the Prime Minister's statements in favour of ending discriminatory provisions, does the government intend to address this deficiency.

270 **Senator Murray:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—

- (1) With reference to the former Treasurer's statement of 27 June 2007 on the release of the 2006 census information that 'the Census forms the basis for our electoral system, the provision of services and policy to meet the challenges that we face': does this mean that the effects of fly-in and fly-out workers who record their domicile elsewhere, or of transient/tourist numbers, will not be sufficiently taken into account for the provision of services in shires such as Roebourne and Wyndham East Kimberley; if not, how are fly-in fly-out or transient/tourist requirements factored in.

- (2) Given that, according to the recently released Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) census figures, in the Kimberley Region, between 2001 and 2006, the population of Broome has risen by only 1.8 per cent, or 1 240 people, and in the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley, by just 0.4 per cent, or 133 people: (a) why do these figures differ from the shires' views as to significant real population growth; and (b) how were these figures arrived at, given, for instance, that school student numbers, a good indicator of permanency, in the region have risen by more than this amount in absolute terms (e.g. at Kununurra District High School, by at least 13 per cent).
- (3) Do census collectors obtain accurate figures from Indigenous communities in the Kimberley; if not, what is the degree of error.
- (4) Has the ABS investigated its figures to determine how such apparent small rises in overall population in the Kimberley can be possible, given the rise in housing demand and construction in these areas since the 2001 census and the overall increase in numbers of children enrolled in the local schools, in some areas, up at least 10 per cent.
- (5) Given that, according to an ABS seminar in Kununurra in 2007, the community was advised that the figures for the 2006 census were collated based on 'place of enumeration' while the method used in the 1996 census and the 2001 census was 'usual place of residence': (a) what impact has this change had on the census outcome; and (b) have Australians still continued to identify their usual place of residence (e.g. Perth) rather than place of enumeration (e.g. Argyle Mine).
- (6) Can the Treasurer confirm that any funding allocations from the Commonwealth, which are aligned to population numbers based on the census, will take into account other factors, such as housing demand and school enrolments in the East Kimberley, when considering funding allocation.

Notice given 13 February 2008

271 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) What data is collected on the: (a) incidence and incidence rate trends for primary non-malignant and malignant brain tumours; and (b) outcomes of treatment options for primary non-malignant and malignant brain tumours.
- (2) Are clinical practice guidelines for the management of non-malignant and malignant brain tumours available.
- (3) What steps, if any, does the Government propose to take to improve knowledge about non-malignant and malignant brain tumours and best practice treatment.

272 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to the decision to destroy the ancient forest in Weld River coupe WR15F:

- (1) (a) What is the necessity for the planned deforestation; and (b) what alternatives are available.
- (2) (a) What buffer will be kept between logging and the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area; and (b) how will this be managed.

- (3) (a) Does this buffer or lack thereof, accord with World Heritage respect and values; and (b) have World Heritage experts agreed with this; if so: (i) who are the experts, (ii) what is their complete advice, and (iii) when was it given.
 - (4) (a) What areas of the coupe will not be logged; (b) why; and (c) on whose advice.
 - (5) Will Gunns Limited be a receiver of wood products from the coupe; if so: what volume and percentage of the commercial wood will go to Gunns Limited.
 - (6) Has the Minister inspected logging in the World Heritage value forests of the Weld; if so, when; if not, why not.
 - (7) Will the Minister, as part of his portfolio responsibilities, visit the Weld River coupe WR15F to ensure Tasmania's World Heritage values are not contravened in any way while the current Minister is in office.
- 273 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government—Is it the case that flight attendants on domestic and international flights for Jetstar Airways may be required to work 12-hour shifts or, in extenuating circumstances, 24-hour shifts; if so, what are the implications for passenger safety; if not, what time limits apply to the shifts of flight attendants and flight crews on: (a) domestic flights; and (b) international flights for airlines in or entering Australia.
- 274 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the proposed Gunns Limited pulp mill: will the mill burn wood to produce electricity; if so: (a) what quantities of greenhouse gases will be produced by the mill's furnace; and (b) will the electricity produced be sold as 'green power' or as environmentally friendly; if so, will native forest wood be used.
- 275 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the proposed Gunns Limited pulp mill:
- (1) Over the life of the mill, how many tonnes of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, will be produced.
 - (2) Can the Minister specify how this production of gases will be offset, either by activities outside the premises of the pulp mill or other means.
- 276 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—
- (1) What agreements were made between scientists on the panel which assessed Gunns Limited's pulp mill and the Government.
 - (2) If an agreement of concurrence on any other matter relating to the Chief Scientist's report to the Minister was made: (a) what were the full terms of the agreement; (b) who signed it; and (c) when was it signed.
- 277 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—
- (1) (a) What discussions have taken place between the Minister and the Prime Minister, or their relevant offices or departments, relating to the involvement of the Chief Scientist, Dr Jim Peacock, and his appointment or the assessment of Gunns Limited's pulp mill; and (b) when did these discussions take place.

- (2) In what way, and when, was the Prime Minister informed of Dr Peacock's role, after his appointment to assess Gunns Limited's pulp mill.

278 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government—

- (1) (a) How many ex-military aircraft are registered in Australia, by aircraft-type, by state/territory; and (b) how many of these aircraft are engaged in commercial operations, by aircraft-type, by state/territory.
- (2) Can an outline be provided of the regulatory regime that governs the operation of ex-military aircraft registered in Australia engaged in: (a) non-commercial; and (b) commercial operations.

279 **Senator Bartlett:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) 'MOU on Handling and Slaughtering of Australian Live Animals' signed on 3 October 2006 by the former Minister and the Egyptian Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Mr Amin Ahmed Abaza:

- (1) Does the MOU relate to all animals exported from Australia to Egypt.
- (2) Can the Minister confirm that there is no distinction made in the MOU in regard of agreed terms for the treatment of Australian sheep, for example whether they are sent to abattoirs or sold privately for home slaughter.
- (3) (a) Can the Minister confirm that, in Egypt, no enforceable legislation exists to prohibit cruelty to animals, within slaughterhouses or elsewhere, or to ensure that the conditions of the MOU are complied with; and (b) given that there is a lack of animal protection laws and that significant animal welfare issues are documented in Egypt, on what basis did the Minister believe that the conditions of the MOU would be complied with.
- (4) Can the Minister confirm that the former Minister and departmental officials were advised by representatives of Animals Australia, prior to the signing of the MOU, that the treatment and handling of sheep in Egypt did not comply with World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines due to the prevalent practice of on-selling to private buyers and the inept and unregulated handling and slaughter practices that are used, even in major abattoirs, in Egypt.
- (5) What assurances about animal welfare standards in Egypt, if any, were made to the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, and to the Australian Government, prior to the granting of an export permit for a consignment of approximately 40 000 sheep from Australia to Egypt in October and November 2006.
- (6) Can the Minister confirm that the former Minister was advised, in correspondence from Animals Australia dated 22 November 2006, that the welfare of the first shipment of sheep to Egypt since the signing of the MOU was at risk as the import was specifically for Eid-al-Adha (the 'Feast of Sacrifice'), the major religious festival during which sheep are sacrificed in the street and in homes; if so: did the former Minister: (a) confirm the information contained in the correspondence; and (b) take action by sending Australian Government representatives to Egypt to monitor the treatment of the sheep that arrived in Egypt in November 2006 in order to assess the adherence to the MOU; if not, why not, given the statement, in the document 'Frequently asked questions—Live trade export – Egypt on the department's website, that 'initial shipments will be closely monitored for compliance with the MOU provisions'.

- (7) Prior to the signing of the MOU, was there any assessment conducted by the Australian Government of market places, abattoirs, transport or handling standards in Egypt, and particularly any assessment of likely adherence to OIE animal welfare guidelines, and therefore the MOU, in regard to sheep; if so, can details of these assessments be provided.
- (8) What assurances were made, by either Mr Abaza or other representatives of the Government of Egypt, to Australian Government representatives in regard to the enforcement of the animal welfare provisions detailed in that MOU, and in particular the adherence to the OIE guidelines for the humane treatment and slaughter of Australian livestock.
- (9) Given that during additional estimates hearings of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee in February 2007, Mr Craig Burns, Executive Manager of the International Division of the department, stated, under questioning about the MOU, that the 'focus' is on the way Australian animals are treated in 'abattoirs and official handling facilities' (Committee *Hansard*, 14 February 2007, p. 57P) in Egypt, and that the footage aired on television of the Animals Australia investigation related to 'leakage from that official system' (p. 56P), can the Minister confirm that: (a) in Egypt no official slaughter and handling system is in place for sheep; and (b) for each of the years 2004, 2005 and 2006, Australian sheep have only been exported from Australia to Egypt in the lead-up to the Eid-al-Adha religious festival, and that a large proportion of these sheep are likely to be privately transported and slaughtered.
- (10) Given the eye witness, video and photographic evidence, gathered by Animals Australia in Cairo in December 2006, that show multiple and consistent breaches of the OIE guidelines, and therefore the MOU, what measures has the Government taken to investigate the documented breaches.
- (11) What measures can the Australian Government take to compel compliance with welfare requirements within an MOU, apart from refusing to supply livestock.
- (12) (a) What assurances, if any, has Egypt provided that any other shipment of animals from Australia to Egypt will be treated humanely; and (b) if such assurances have been made, does the Minister believe that the conditions of the MOU will be complied with in future given that the Egyptian Government has no capacity to enforce the conditions of the MOU in slaughterhouses or in private premises.
- (13) What further measures will the Australian Government put in place to ensure, and to assure the Australian public, that Australian animals exported to Egypt will be treated in accordance with the OIE guidelines.
- (14) Will the Australian Government refrain from issuing any further export permits for animals from Australia to Egypt if no additional and effective measures are in place to protect these animals.
- (15) Is the Minister aware that the Egyptian Government Organisation of Veterinary Services Animal Welfare Office has recently renewed its policy and practice of authorising the shooting and use of strychnine on stray dogs in the streets of Cairo.

- (16) Given that the Australian Government has, in recent years, negotiated MOUs with Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Eritrea and Jordan on the trade in live animals which relate to the agreed off-loading of animals into the importing country in the event of a suspected disease issue, and were intended to protect against a rejection of Australian livestock similar to the *Cormo Express* incident and given the breaches of the MOU between Australia and Egypt that have been acknowledged in public statements by the Minister, and the apparent disregard by Egypt of the MOU, what confidence does the Minister have that similar MOUs entered into with the remaining countries will be honoured in the event of a suspected major on-board disease event.
 - (17) Will the Australian Government report the failure of the Egyptian Government to adhere to the minimum animal handling and slaughter guidelines to the OIE.
- 280 **Senator Campbell:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Finance and Deregulation—With reference to the Commonwealth Fleet Management Agreement:
- (1) Can a break-down be provided of all vehicles owned or leased by the Commonwealth Government under the Fleet Management Agreement, including: (a) the total number of vehicles; (b) vehicle type (e.g. sedan, wagon etc); and (c) user (e.g. department, authority etc).
 - (2) Can a copy be provided of the Fleet Management Agreement.
 - (3) Under the Fleet Management Agreement, does the Commonwealth have any say over the type of vehicles that are used.
 - (4) Can full details be provided of any vehicles owned or leased by the Commonwealth which are not covered by the Fleet Management Agreement.
- 281 **Senator Webber:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—Are banks with an Australian banking licence permitted to hold data or records on accounts in associated banks or subsidiaries domiciled in known tax havens.
- 282 **Senator Webber:** To ask the Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer—
- (1) What action is the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) taking against the directors of Westpoint Corporation Pty Ltd.
 - (2) Is the Minister aware of any proposed legislation or amendments that would have prevented the actions of the Westpoint directors.
 - (3) Is the Minister aware of any representation made by ASIC to have legislation amended that would have prevented mezzanine finance deals similar to those employed by Westpoint.
 - (4) Did ASIC believe that Westpoint mezzanine funds were regulated products.
 - (5) On what dates did KPMG sign off on Westpoint's accounts in the past 6 years.
 - (6) What action did the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority (APRA) and ASIC take when they first discovered that Westpoint was acting as a bank without a licence.
 - (7) Why did APRA and ASIC take a long time to realise that Westpoint was breaking the law.
 - (8) Why has APRA not increased the limits for Financial Industry Complaints Service jurisdiction.

283 **Senator Webber:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—

- (1) Did the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) ever place any restrictions, formally or informally, on Mr Murray Nugent or the companies he was involved with, specifically Reward Insurance Ltd and Australian Home Warranty Pty Ltd, on writing licensed builder home warranty insurance (LBHWI) from 1 July 1999 onwards.
- (2) Can the Minister confirm that Mr Nugent continued to write LBHWI through Rewards Insurance Ltd after 1 July 1999.
- (3) Can the Minister confirm that APRA has the power to disqualify an individual from holding roles within the Australian insurance industry; if so, why has APRA never moved to disqualify Mr Nugent from operating in the insurance industry.
- (4) If Reward Insurance Ltd was under the minimum capital requirements for insurance companies from 2001 onwards, why did not APRA shut the company down.
- (5) Can an outline be provided of all investigations, recommendations and directions undertaken and instigated into Reward Insurance Ltd since 1999 by: (a) APRA; and (b) the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC).
- (6) Can the Minister confirm that investigations by APRA and ASIC into Reward Insurance Ltd and Mr Nugent have stalled since May 2005; if so, why.

284 **Senator Webber:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the World Heritage nomination of Albany Old Gaol/Amity Heritage Precinct:

- (1) Who were the consultants that prepared nomination for the former Government.
- (2) Did the consultants identify the Albany Old Gaol/Amity Heritage Precinct as a possible convict settlement site.
- (3) Given that the above site is the oldest European heritage precinct settlement in Western Australia, clearly established under convict labour, why was this location not included by the Minister in the nomination.
- (4) Given that the Western Australian Government and the city of Albany have already approved icon heritage status to Albany Anzac (with state and federal funding) and the implicit relationship between the Albany Waterfront project and the Residency Museum/Eclipse Museum/Old Gaol Heritage Precinct, was the Western Australian Minister for Housing and Works; Heritage; Indigenous Affairs; Land Information, the Honourable Michelle Roberts MLA and the city of Albany consulted as to the precinct's inclusion for nomination.
- (5) Is the Minister now prepared to include the Heritage Precinct as an addendum to the nomination.

Notice given 19 February 2008

285 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government—

- (1) What action is being taken to ensure current and future road and rail infrastructure developments are placed in areas that will not be subject to coastal flooding or inundation due to climate change.

- (2) What subsidies currently apply for road freight transport.
- (3) What action is being taken to ensure that large freight vehicles pay the full cost of their road use.
- (4) Will the transport budget be re-allocated to give a greater share of funding to rail and intermodal freight structure and reduce the share of road transport.

286 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—

- (1) (a) Will the 2008 National Inventory Submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) contain results and data from the FullCAM model, as produced by the National Carbon Accounting System (NCAS); and (b) will the submission be based on data from 2006.
- (2) Will the NCAS, or the FullCAM model on which it is based, be calibrated with the latest carbon stock numbers for mature native forests, as found in studies such as ‘Assessing the carbon sequestration potential of managed forests: a case study from temperate Australia’ (Roxburgh et al, 2006) and ‘Growth modelling of *Eucalyptus regnans* for carbon accounting at the landscape scale’ (Dean et al, 2003).
- (3) (a) What age class data on ‘managed native forests’ will be used in the FullCAM model; and (b) will this age class data be available to the public.
- (4) (a) What expansion factors will be used to determine emissions from logging operations; and (b) on what scientific references are these expansion factors based.
- (5) (a) Will the soil carbon affected by harvesting in the model be used in the National Inventory Report for 2008; and (b) what scientific references and data sources are used to calibrate the effect of the harvest of native forests on soil carbon.
- (6) Given that Australia’s inventory will be scrutinized by the UNFCCC and the Marrakech Accords, which state that inventories should be ‘neither over- nor underestimated as far as can be judged’, can the Government confirm that the inventory will not underestimate emissions for Article 3.3 deforestation for the states for 2006.

287 **Senator Milne:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—With reference to the series of bushfires that began burning on or about 6 December 2006 on the east coast of Tasmania, seriously damaging a number of areas, especially the Four Mile Creek district:

- (1) Given Forestry Tasmania’s statement that the ignition point was a campfire lit by tourists at the Griffin Park picnic site contradicts local community reports that the forest around the Griffin Park picnic site was not burnt during the bushfires, how and where did the fires start.
- (2) When were the bushfires declared a national disaster.
- (3) What federal, state and local agencies were involved in the management, assessment of damage and recovery from the bushfires.
- (4) (a) What were the terms of reference for the Affected Areas Recovery Committee (AARC), established following the bushfires;
- (5) (a) Was the AARC established under Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements; and (b) who determined its make-up

- (6) (a) When did the AARC first meet; and (b) (i) how often did it meet, (ii) on what dates, and (iii) who attended.
- (7) (a) What Government agencies and what private organisations were represented on the AARC; (b) which individuals represented these agencies and organisations on the AARC; and (c) how were these individuals selected.
- (8) How did the AARC determine recommendations for funding allocations.
- (9) Who appointed the Mayor of Break O' Day Council as chair of the AARC.
- (10) Why was the Mayor appointed to chair the AARC, rather than an independent official from outside the municipality.
- (11) (a) What was the process for those affected by the 2006 fires to apply for financial assistance; and (b) how was this process communicated.
- (12) Can a breakdown be provided of funds expended by the AARC; if not, why not.
- (13) With reference to the decision of the AARC to advertise for a coordinator to establish community contact some time after its establishment, why was the position not advertised when the AARC was established.
- (14) Why were residents from the worst fire-affected regions (Scamander and Four Mile Creek) restricted to three seats out of ten on the Community Recovery Representative Group (CRRG).
- (15) (a) Who determined the make-up of the CRRG; and (b) (i) how often did it meet, (ii) on what dates, and (iii) who attended.
- (16) (a) What were the terms of reference for the CRRG; (b) were the terms of reference different from the AARC's terms of reference; if so, why; and (c) did the AARC release its terms of reference to the CRRG on its establishment; if not, why not.
- (17) What was the process of consultation and communication between the CRRG, the AARC, and affected communities.
- (18) How often did the CRRG meet with the AARC.
- (19) (a) How did the CRRG determine recommendations for funding allocations; and (b) was information regarding funding allocations made by the AARC withheld from the CRRG; if so, why.
- (20) Why was the Four Mile community's application to the AARC, through its CRRG representative, for funding in June 2007 to pay for a fire damage and rehabilitation assessment and updated management plans for the Four Mile catchment rejected.
- (21) Were the total costs of damaged and destroyed public infrastructure (i.e. telecommunications, roads, bridges etc.) calculated; if not, why not; if so, what was the total cost of repair and replacement of public infrastructure.
- (22) Were funds administered by the AARC used, or proposed to be used, for the repair or replacement of public infrastructure; if so, on what justification.
- (23) Has the AARC, or relevant federal, state and local agencies, assessed the total environmental damage caused by the fires; if not, why not.
- (24) Has the AARC, or relevant federal, state and local agencies, undertaken any environmental rehabilitation of areas damaged by the bushfires; if not, why not.

- (25) Has the AARC, or relevant federal, state and local agencies, instituted any new fire management plans or initiatives as a result of their work on the bushfires; if not, why not.

Notice given 20 February 2008

288 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs—

- (1) Between the following years, what total number of handguns were stolen from each jurisdiction: (a) 1978-83; (b) 1984-89; (c) 1990-95; (d) 1996-2001; and (e) 2002-07.
- (2) From what source were the handguns stolen (i.e. individuals, gun shops, security firms etc.).

289 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the President of the Senate—

- (1) Can a list be provided of all contractors responsible for maintenance of the public spaces, offices, gardens and surrounds of Parliament House between 1998 and 2002.
- (2) Can the process by which these contractors were appointed be outlined.

290 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—

- (1) How many Indigenous languages existed in Australia in 1788.
- (2) How many of these languages have been lost.
- (3) Are any Indigenous languages currently at risk of being lost; if so, which ones.
- (4) What strategies are currently in place to ensure the survival of Indigenous languages.
- (5) What funding has been committed to ensure the survival of Indigenous languages.

291 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Special Minister of State—

- (1) Can a list be provided of all contractors responsible for the refurbishment and establishment of the parliamentarians' electorate offices between 1998 and 2008.
- (2) Can the process by which these contractors were appointed be outlined.

Notice given 21 February 2008

292 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) On what dates did the Central Gippsland Health Service in Sale, Victoria apply for and receive an area of need specialist classification for a paediatrician.
- (2) Is the Minister aware that two suitably qualified, locally-based paediatricians applied for a paediatrician's position in late October and early November 2006 and that the Central Gippsland Health Service subsequently applied for area of need status.
- (3) Is the Minister aware that the Central Gippsland Health Service subsequently appointed an overseas-trained doctor, who had failed the Royal Australasian College of Physicians examination, to fill that position.

- (4) Was the appointment consistent with area of need guidelines and processes.
- (5) Would the granting of a 457 visa under these circumstances be allowable.
- (6) What evidence do local health services have to provide to establish that they have been unable to attract a suitably qualified local applicant in order to qualify for area of need status.
- (7) What processes does the Government have in place to monitor the area of need classification process.

293 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) What process does the Government use to scrutinise the sales of aged care companies that receive Government payments.
- (2) How does the Government determine that key personnel in the purchasing company are suitable for providing aged care.
- (3) Does the purchaser of a company that has approved provider status for aged care have to obtain approved provider status in its own right once it has purchased an aged care facility or company; if not, why not.

294 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) (a) What are the most recent figures for Chlamydia notifications, by age and state, if possible; and (b) does this indicate an increase or decrease from previous years.
- (2) (a) What age groups is the pilot testing program for Chlamydia targeting; and (b) how were these age groups decided.
- (3) Can a list be provided of the projects funded under the targeted grants program, including respective funding levels and commencement and anticipated completion dates.
- (4) (a) If any of the funded targeted grants programs have been completed, what level of screening was targeted and what level was achieved; and (b) what data was collected on the prevalence of Chlamydia.
- (5) In regard to Chlamydia testing in general practice (GP) settings: (a) when did testing commence; (b) in how many settings is the testing occurring; (c) where is the testing being conducted; (d) how were locations selected; (e) what process is being used to identify participants; (f) what participation rate has been achieved; (g) are any GP settings using a systematic approach, such as sending out letters to all young female clients to ask them to come in for testing or combining testing with visits for pap screens; and (h) what results have been obtained to date.
- (6) Has the Government looked into Chlamydia screening outside the GP setting, for example by school-based screening or sporting club screening.
- (7) Has the Government looked into the need for Chlamydia education and health promotion programs.

295 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) What data does the Government have on the prevalence of people living with chronic wounds.
- (2) What are the costs to the health system of chronic wound care.

- (3) How much funding does the Government provide for wound management aids or appliances.
- (4) What wound management technology does the Government fund.
- (5) (a) How much does the Government spend on educating the medical profession on appropriate wound management techniques; and (b) how is this funding distributed.
- (6) What steps, if any, does the Government propose to take to improve chronic wound care.

296 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) (a) What statistics does the department have on the prevalence of Parkinson's disease in Australia; and (b) how many people are affected by Parkinson's disease.
- (2) How does the prevalence of Parkinson's disease compare to other diseases and injuries that are considered National Health Priority Areas (NHPAs), such as suicide.
- (3) How are NHPAs determined.
- (4) (a) How much federal funding goes to suicide-related initiatives; and (b) how much goes to Parkinson's disease related initiatives.
- (5) How many Parkinson's disease specialist nurses are working in Australia.
- (6) (a) Is the Minister aware that United Kingdom guidelines recommend one Parkinson's disease specialist nurse for every 300 patients, which would translate to a need for 182 Parkinson's disease specialist nurses in Australia; and (b) has the Government looked into potential savings that would occur from better access to specialist nursing care.
- (7) Has the Government looked into the need for general practitioner and public education about Parkinson's disease; if so, does this include employer education.
- (8) (a) How much money does the Government direct to research into Parkinson's disease; (b) of this amount, how much is provided to look at causes, as opposed to cures and treatment models; and (c) how does this compare to other NHPAs.

297 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—With reference to the plan for the establishment of 'GP superclinics':

- (1) Will there be provision for salaried general practitioners (GPs).
- (2) (a) What other health professionals will be employed in the superclinics; and (b) will they be employed on a fee-for-service or salaried basis.
- (3) Will the superclinics employ nurse practitioners; if so: (a) what role will they play; (b) what services will they provide; and (c) how will they be remunerated.
- (4) What incentives will be offered to encourage the use of preventative services in the superclinics.

298 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—With regard to reports that the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) and the Australian Federal Police (AFP) will be involved in assessing and providing security for some schools:

- (1) What data does the Government have on the amount of money schools spend on security.
 - (2) What will be the task delineation between ASIO and the AFP.
 - (3) How many, and which, schools will be assessed to see if they have special security needs.
 - (4) Will schools be able to nominate for a security assessment.
 - (5) How much funding will be available for individual schools.
 - (6) Is the Government considering the provision of funding for security to other venues, such as churches, synagogues and mosques.
- 299 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—Given that Gunns Limited conduct further hydrodynamic modelling before the Minister finalises approval for the commission of the pulp mill project, and if, as several independent oceanographers have highlighted, government scientists agree that the daily effluent discharge of 64 000 tonnes will adversely effect Commonwealth marine waters, ecosystems and marine migratory species, will the Minister refuse permission for Gunns Limited to start operation the pulp mill.
- 300 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—In regard to the assessment of the Gunns Limited pulp mill project:
- (1) Given that Professor Joy's 90-day appointment expired on 12 January 2008, who has been acting as the Independent Site Supervisor since that date.
 - (2) Was Professor Joy's appointment formally extended; if not, has the Minister approved the clearance of vegetation at the mill site, which may already be taking place.
 - (3) Is work in progress without a properly appointed site supervisor to monitor compliance with the conditions.
 - (4) Given that, during the election campaign, the Minister described the approach taken by the former Government in regard to the mill's approval process as 'a shambles', and particularly given how little trust many Tasmanians have in the state-level regulatory process surrounding the mill, why is the Minister sticking with a federal oversight structure and team put in place during the course of a discredited approval process, by a former Government whose competence he questioned and whose Minister was under pressure to approve the mill according to a narrow interpretation of the *Environmental Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999*, regardless of its actual environmental impact.
- 301 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—
- (1) Has the Minister begun to consider candidates for the permanent position of Independent Site Supervisor for the Gunns Limited pulp mill project.
 - (2) Will the list of candidates be discussed with Gunns Limited prior to the final appointment; if so, will the list be made public prior to the appointment date.
 - (3) When will the Minister make the appointment.

- 302 **Senator Bob Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—In regard to the Independent Expert Group (IEG) for the Gunns Limited pulp mill project:
- (1) Has the Minister begun to consider candidates for the expansion of the IEG.
 - (2) (a) Will the list of candidates be discussed with Gunns Limited prior to their final appointment; and (b) will this list be made public prior to the appointments.
 - (3) When will the Minister make these appointments.
 - (4) Why is the Minister continuing with an IEG assessment when the majority of its members are to be drawn from the Expert Panel, which is supposed to be a separate body from the IEG.

Notice given 27 February 2008

- 303 **Senator Kemp:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs—Can a coordinated time series be provided of all expenditure, grants and membership subscriptions, made by every government department and agency to the United Nations (UN), UN agencies and UN-associated entities (including peacekeeping operations) for the past 4 financial years, indicating the expenditures made by each department and agency and the UN agency or association that received it (including all regular budget, extra-budgetary and peacekeeping expenditure).
- 304 **Senator Kemp:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs—Can a coordinated table be provided of all expenditure, grants and membership subscriptions, made by every government department and agency to the United Nations (UN), UN agencies and UN-associated entities (including peacekeeping operations) for the past financial year, indicating the expenditures made by each department and agency and the UN agency or association that received it (including all regular budget, extra-budgetary and peacekeeping expenditure).
- 305 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the reduction of the Government vehicle fleet by 1 500 vehicles since 2001:
- (1) How was this reduction achieved.
 - (2) Are efforts being made to achieve further reductions; if so, what are these efforts.
- 306 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—
- (1) Is the Minister aware of reports that the organs of executed prisoners in China are removed without their knowledge or consent and used for transplant purposes.
 - (2) What information does the Minister have on the validity of these reports.
 - (3) Has the Government investigated whether any Australian citizens have received organ transplants from executed prisoners in China; if so, what were the findings from this investigation; if not, why not.
 - (4) Has the Government investigated whether Australians are involved in overseas commercial organ transplant activities; if so, what were the findings from this investigation; if not, why not.

- (5) What current laws regulate the involvement of Australians in commercial organ transplant activities in Australia and overseas.
- 307 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—
- (1) Is the Minister aware of the recent letter in the *Australian Doctor* magazine that reports that some medical practices are refusing to perform pap smears.
 - (2) What information is available on the prevalence of medical practitioners or medical practices refusing to provide services to patients requesting them, including the nature of the services.
 - (3) What information is available on the reasons that medical practitioners or medical practices may be refusing to provide services to patients requesting them.
 - (4) Does the Government intend to investigate why some medical practitioners or medical practices may be refusing to perform particular services; if not, why not.
 - (5) What are the legal requirements for medical practices and individual medical practitioners with regard to providing access to medical services.
 - (6) What processes, if any, does the Government require medical practitioners receiving government funds to put in place to ensure that their patients have access to comprehensive medical care.
- 308 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs—Can the following details be provided for each of the compensation payments made to Australian veterans since 1996: (a) the date of the payment; (b) the payment amount; (c) the nature of the compensable injury; (d) the legislative vehicle through which payment was effected; (e) whether the case was the subject of appeal and the out of that appeal; and (f) the cost of legal services associated with the case.
- 309 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—By medical speciality, does the Government have data on districts of workforce shortage; if so, is Sale in Victoria a district of workforce shortage for specialist paediatrics.
- 310 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research—
- (1) What research, if any, is being conducted on deep groundwater mapping in Australia.
 - (2) What does the Government understand to be the capacity for deep groundwater to provide fresh water supplies for agriculture and urban use in Australia.
 - (3) Since 2003, what amount of funding has the Government provided for projects to lower the water table as a form of salinity mitigation.
 - (4) Is it the case that drainage projects to lower the water table are now considered largely ineffective.
 - (5) (a) What salinity mitigation strategy is considered most effective; and (b) what assessment has been made of the extent, from this form of salinity mitigation, of: (i) dehydration of soils, and (ii) damage to the health of soils.

- (6) (a) What research has been conducted on degraded agricultural soil mapping; and (b) what assessment has been made of the extent in compacted and/or degraded soils of: (i) loss of carbon, (ii) loss of microbes and nutrients, (iii) the reduction in the capacity for water storage, (iv) the reduction in the seepage of fresh water from soil into surface dams and river systems, (v) the reduction in deep soil water percolation, (vi) increases in surface runoff from precipitation, and (vii) salination, as caused by the concentration of soil by the lateral flow of water through degraded soil.
- (7) What research is being conducted into the science of soil health.
- (8) What involvement does the department have with Healthy Soils Australia.

311 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Education—

- (1) (a) What percentage of long day care centres participate in the Quality Improvement and Accreditation System; and (b) of these long day care centres, what percentage undertake a self study of their quality on a yearly basis.
- (2) What percentage of long day care centres that submit self-study reports to the National Childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC) have their reports independently validated by a member of the NCAC.
- (3) (a) What is the average time that elapses between the submission of a self-study report and its independent validation; and (b) what is the longest recorded time that has elapsed between these stages.
- (4) Of the self-study reports that have been submitted for validation for long day care centres, what percentage of validations do not agree with the reports.
- (5) What percentage of long day care centres: (a) do not end up accredited; and (b) receive at least a standard level of quality across all quality areas.
- (6) Are centres obliged to show parents the results of validation visits.
- (7) Are results of self studies and validations available on the Internet to assist parents in choosing a centre.
- (8) (a) What percentage of centres have failed to meet a standard level of quality across all levels on more than one occasion, that is, they have repeatedly failed to meet the standards; and (b) are any of these centres still operating.
- (9) When did unannounced spot checks of child care services commence.
- (10) Since the commencement of these unannounced spot checks: (a) how many spot checks have been undertaken of: (i) long day care services, (ii) family day care services, and (iii) outside school hours services; and (b) for each of these service types, what percentage of services have undergone spot tests.
- (11) What is the yearly target, as a number and/or a percentage, for spot checks for each of the following types of child care services: (a) long day care; (b) family day care; and (c) outside school hours services.
- (12) What level of resources, including overall funding and the number of staff, is allocated for spot checks of child care services.
- (13) What percentage of centres have failed a spot check.

- (14) Have any spot checks identified problems that might relate to licensing regulations; if so: (a) have licensing authorities been notified and what has been the outcome of these notifications; (b) what is the timeframe that services have for fixing the source of the spot check failure; (c) are the results of spot checks publicly available; if so, how do parents access them.
- (15) What feedback has been received in relation to these spot checks.
- (16) Are there plans to formally evaluate the spot check system; if so: (a) when; and (b) how, will the spot check system be evaluated.
- (17) How was the 6 week timeframe for the unannounced validation visits decided upon.
- (18) Are there any plans to evaluate the change to unannounced validation visits; if so: (a) when; and (b) how, will the unannounced validation visit system be evaluated.
- (19) How many children with additional needs are currently accessing mainstream child care services.
- (20) What data are available to the department on the number of children with additional care needs that are not accessing mainstream child care services or the In Home Care programme.

312 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Status of Women—

- (1) What are the forward estimates for each of the financial years up to and including 2009-10 for funding the Women's Safety Agenda.
- (2) Will expenditure continue at the level of the forward estimates provided in May 2006.
- (3) What percentage of the funds allocated to the Women's Safety Agenda: (a) is directed towards working with perpetrators of violence; and (b) goes to preventing domestic violence as opposed to helping survivors after violence has occurred.
- (4) Can a list be provided of the community-based organisations that have received grants as part of the Women's Safety Agenda grants program and the amount of funding that they have received, disaggregated by state and year.
- (5) For each of the financial years up to and including 2009-10, how much money is allocated to the grants for community-based organisations that are an element of the Women's Safety Agenda.
- (6) When does funding cease for the: (a) Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse; and (b) Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault.
- (7) In relation to plans for the 'Violence against Women – Australia Says No' multimedia campaign, for the next 12 months: (a) when are advertisements scheduled to be run; (b) what other activities or products will be involved in the campaign; and (c) for these other activities or products, what is the schedule for these to be released.
- (8) What percentage of the funds allocated to the Women's Safety Agenda goes towards the Mensline telephone helpline.
- (9) What percentage of calls to the Mensline telephone helpline deal with family violence as opposed to other issues.

- (10) Are conversations between callers to the helpline and counsellors recorded; if so: (a) do the recordings have unique identification numbers; and (b) are the recordings stored; if so, for how long.
- (11) Does the Government provide any funding for the White Ribbon Campaign which urges men to speak out against violence against women.
- (12) In relation to the 'Domestic Violence – Crisis Payments to victims who remain in the home' scheme: (a) how many women have accessed payments under the scheme; and (b) what is the total number of payments that have been provided to victims under the scheme.

313 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government—With reference to submissions of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee's inquiry into air safety and cabin air quality in the BAe 146 aircraft in 2000, revealing that fumes containing oil toxins such as tricresyl phosphate (TCP) have in the past leaked into the cabins of commercial aircraft, causing passenger and crew illness and to the committee's recommendations that a national standard be set for checking and monitoring engine seals on all passenger commercial jet aircraft and also to the Government's response that, for economic reasons, it would wait for this to be undertaken at an international level:

- (1) Can information be provided whether such an international standard has been created; if not, will the Minister take steps to implement such a standard in Australia.
- (2) Will the Minister consider funding a study to determine whether TCP is leaking into aircraft cabins.
- (3) What investigation, if any, has been conducted into pilot, crew and passenger illnesses considered likely to be caused by TCP leaking into aircraft cabins.
- (4) Is the Minister aware that the United States of America Academy of Scientists has recommended that aircraft interiors be regularly tested for neurotoxins such as TCP.
- (5) (a) Is the Minister aware that the Australian and International Pilots Association is co-funding research with the Royal Australia Air Force at the University of Washington to develop a blood test for neurotoxins such as TCP; and (b) will this test be used in Australia; if so, when.

314 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts—With reference to the lack of whale sightings in 2007 at Warrnambool, Victoria:

- (1) Can the Minister rule out that seismic surveying in the area is responsible.
- (2) Was this seismic surveying approved under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*; if so, under what conditions.
- (3) Given the fact that the impacts of seismic surveying on whales are not fully understood and that the guidelines for survey activities are not yet complete or in operation, will the current seismic surveying of the coast of south west Victoria be halted.

315 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) How much has been spent by the Australian Government to date on establishing the proposed Australia-New Zealand Therapeutic Products Authority (ANZTPA).
- (2) Did the department undertake a risk assessment before commencing negotiations on the joint regulatory scheme for therapeutic products; if so, did the risk assessment consider the likelihood of the New Zealand Parliament refusing to pass the necessary enabling legislation.
- (3) What action will be undertaken to analyse the issues raised by opponents of the joint agency in regard to regulatory complexity, the need for separate risk management processes for complementary healthcare products and concerns about increased costs to the community for complementary healthcare products.
- (4) (a) What alternative options or models for harmonisation are under consideration; (b) what is the timeline for this new process; (c) what consultation processes will be undertaken; and (d) who will be involved.
- (5) Will any new harmonisation model include governance and standards setting for complementary medicines that separates their risk management from much higher risk medicines.
- (6) Under the proposed joint authority, would New Zealand have had to accept the obligations Australia faces as part of the free trade agreement with the United States of America, in particular, the requirement that generic pharmaceutical companies must notify drug manufacturers of their intention to enter the market with a low-cost copy of a branded drug.
- (7) Is the department aware of any negative feedback regarding the stakeholder consultations held as part of the process for establishing the trans-Tasman regulator; if so, what is the nature of this feedback.

316 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the serious concerns raised by disability groups about the discriminatory practices of Virgin Blue in regard to air travel by people with disabilities.
- (2) Are Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) regulations intended to bar travellers with disabilities from travelling on planes.
- (3) Is it the intention of CASA Regulation 14.1.2 that all air travellers with disabilities must be accompanied by an assisting person.
- (4) Is it the intention of CASA regulations that all air travellers must, without assistance, reach for, pull down and secure overhead oxygen masks (including manipulating the straps), reach for and put on life jackets, manipulate the tapes and flaps on the front and back of the life jacket and evacuate from the aircraft in an emergency.
- (5) Why do unaccompanied children, aged 5 years and above, meet the Virgin Blue independent travel criteria but people with disabilities do not.
- (6) Do all children undertaking air travel have to travel with an assisting person.

- (7) Is it acceptable that Virgin Blue refuses to make clear how its independent travel criteria are put into operation or how they can be measured by staff or individuals.
- (8) Is it acceptable that Virgin Blue requires people with a disability to buy a non-refundable ticket and that there is no guarantee that they will be able to board the flight until they arrive at the terminal.
- (9) Is it acceptable that Virgin Blue can implement a policy that effectively excludes a whole segment of the community from using its services.

317 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs—

- (1) In regard to the introduction of 99-year leases in Aboriginal communities, is it the case that the agreements are written in English only and that local language translations are not made available to traditional owners.
- (2) Is it the case that some, or many, traditional owners cannot read or understand English; if so, does the Minister accept that this means that some, or many, traditional owners do not understand the agreements they are signing.
- (3) Is it the case that, as reported in an article in the *Northern Territory News* of 12 May 2007, 'Confusion on Tiwi land deal' (p. 14), some traditional owners of the Mantiyupwi community on the Tiwi Islands thought that they were signing a \$50 'sitting fee' form for their presence at a Tiwi Land Council meeting in May 2007 and not a 99-year lease; if so, how does the Minister respond to the signing of the lease in those circumstances.

318 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—For each of the following Acts or legislative instruments, what would be the expected cost per annum, or the expected initial cost, if any, incurred by the Commonwealth if the Act or instrument was amended as set out in the Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007 [2008]:

- (a) *Aboriginal Land Grant (Jervis Bay Territory) Act 1986;*
- (b) *Aged Care Act 1997;*
- (c) *Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act 1997;*
- (d) *Bankruptcy Act 1966;*
- (e) *Broadcasting Services Act 1992;*
- (f) *Civil Aviation (Carriers' Liability) Act 1959;*
- (g) *Corporations Act 2001;*
- (h) *Defence Act 1903;*
- (i) *Defence Force (Home Loans Assistance) Act 1990;*
- (j) *Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Act 1973;*
- (k) *Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act 1967;*
- (l) *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000;*
- (m) *Family Law Act 1975;*
- (n) *Financial Sector (Shareholdings) Act 1998;*
- (o) *Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975;*
- (p) Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Regulations 1989;
- (q) *Foreign States Immunities Act 1985;*

- (r) *Governor-General Act 1974*;
- (s) *Health Insurance Act 1973*;
- (t) *Higher Education Funding Act 1988*;
- (u) *Higher Education Support Act 2003*;
- (v) *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*;
- (w) *Insurance Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1991*;
- (x) *International Organisations (Privileges and Immunities) Act 1963*;
- (y) *Judges' Pensions Act 1968*;
- (z) *Judicial and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Allowances) Act 1984*;
- (aa) *Life Insurance Act 1995*;
- (ab) *Members of Parliament (Life Gold Pass) Act 2002*;
- (ac) *Migration Regulations 1994*;
- (ad) *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*;
- (ae) *Military Superannuation and Benefits Trust Deed*;
- (af) *National Health Act 1953*;
- (ag) *Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Act 1948*;
- (ah) *Parliamentary Entitlements Act 1990*;
- (ai) *Passenger Movement Charge Collection Act 1978*;
- (aj) *Pooled Development Funds Act 1992*;
- (ak) *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002*;
- (al) *Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/14: Members of Parliament—Travelling Allowance*;
- (am) *Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18: Members of Parliament—Entitlements*;
- (an) *Retirement Savings Accounts Act 1997*;
- (ao) *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*;
- (ap) *Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1992*;
- (aq) *Social Security Act 1991*;
- (ar) *Superannuation Act 1976*;
- (as) *Superannuation Act 1990*;
- (at) *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993*;
- (au) *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*; and
- (av) *Workplace Relations Act 1996*.

319 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—For each of the following Acts, what would be the expected cost per annum, or the expected initial cost, if any, incurred by the Commonwealth if the Act was amended as set out in the Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007 [2008]:

- (a) *Aboriginal Land Grant (Jervis Bay Territory) Act 1986*; and
- (b) *Social Security Act 1991*.

- 320 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—For each of the following Acts, what would be the expected cost per annum, or the expected initial cost, if any, incurred by the Commonwealth if the Act was amended as set out in the Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007 [2008]:
- (a) *Aged Care Act 1997*;
 - (b) *Health Insurance Act 1973*; and
 - (c) *National Health Act 1953*.
- 321 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—What would be the expected cost per annum, or the expected initial cost, if any, incurred by the Commonwealth if the *Pooled Development Funds Act 1992* was amended as set out in the Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007 [2008].
- 322 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—What would be the expected cost per annum, or the expected initial cost, if any, incurred by the Commonwealth if the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* was amended as set out in the Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007 [2008].
- 323 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—What would be the expected cost per annum, or the expected initial cost, if any, incurred by the Commonwealth if the *Civil Aviation (Carriers' Liability) Act 1959* was amended as set out in the Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007 [2008].
- 324 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—For each of the following Acts or legislative instruments, what would be the expected cost per annum, or the expected initial cost, if any, incurred by the Commonwealth if the Act or legislative instrument was amended as set out in the Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007 [2008]:
- (a) *Defence Act 1903*;
 - (b) *Defence Force (Homes Loans Assistance) Act 1990*;
 - (c) *Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Act 1973*; and
 - (d) Military Superannuation and Benefits Trust Deed.
- 325 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—For each of the following Acts, what would be the expected cost per annum, or the expected initial cost, if any, incurred by the Commonwealth if the Act was amended as set out in the Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007 [2008]:
- (a) *Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act 1967*; and
 - (b) *International Organisations (Privileges and Immunities) Act 1963*.
- 326 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—For each of the following Acts, what would be the expected cost per annum, or the expected initial cost, if any, incurred by the Commonwealth if the Act was amended as set out in the Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007 [2008]:
- (a) *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000*;
 - (b) *Higher Education Funding Act 1988*; and
 - (c) *Higher Education Support Act 2003*.

- 327 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—For each of the following Acts, what would be the expected cost per annum, or the expected initial cost, if any, incurred by the Commonwealth if the Act was amended as set out in the Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007 [2008]:
- (a) *Bankruptcy Act 1966*;
 - (b) *Family Law Act 1975*;
 - (c) *Foreign States Immunities Act 1985*;
 - (d) *Judges' Pensions Act 1968*;
 - (e) *Judicial and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Allowances) Act 1984*;
 - (f) *Passenger Movement Charge Collection Act 1978*; and
 - (g) *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002*.
- 328 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—What would be the expected cost per annum, or the expected initial cost, if any, incurred by the Commonwealth if the *Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act 1997* or legislative instrument was amended as set out in the Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007 [2008].
- 329 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—For each of the following Acts or legislative instruments, what would be the expected cost per annum, or the expected initial cost, if any, incurred by the Commonwealth if the Act or legislative instrument was amended as set out in the Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007 [2008]:
- (a) *Members of Parliament (Life Gold Pass) Act 2002*;
 - (b) *Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Act 1948*;
 - (c) *Parliamentary Entitlements Act 1990*;
 - (d) Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/14: Members of Parliament—Travelling Allowance;
 - (e) Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18: Members of Parliament—Entitlements;
 - (f) *Superannuation Act 1976*; and
 - (g) *Superannuation Act 1990*.
- 330 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—What would be the expected cost per annum, or the expected initial cost, if any, incurred by the Commonwealth if the Migration Regulations 1994 were amended as set out in the Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007 [2008].
- 331 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—For each of the following Acts, what would be the expected cost per annum, or the expected initial cost, if any, incurred by the Commonwealth if the Act was amended as set out in the Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007 [2008]:
- (a) *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*;
 - (b) *Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1992*; and
 - (c) *Workplace Relations Act 1996*.
- 332 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—What would be the expected cost per annum, or the expected initial cost, if any, incurred by the Commonwealth if the *Governor-General Act 1974* was amended as set out in the Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007 [2008].

- 333 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—For each of the following Acts, what would be the expected cost per annum, or the expected initial cost, if any, incurred by the Commonwealth if the Act was amended as set out in the Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007 [2008]:
- (a) *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*; and
 - (b) *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.
- 334 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy—
- (1) Is it the case that the Natural History Unit (NHU) of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation has been closed down; if so: (a) why; (b) when was the decision made and by whom; (c) why has no announcement been made; (d) how will the work of the NHU now be undertaken; (e) for each of the past 10 years, what was the budget for the NHU; and (f) how much money will be 'saved' by the closure.
 - (2) (a) For each of the past 10 years, how much funding has the NHU received from other sources; and (b) of this amount, how much was received from international broadcasters for its programs.
 - (3) Will the international funding identified in paragraph (2) be lost when the NHU is closed.
- 335 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research—With reference to reports quoting the Program Manager of the Clean Coal Centre at the International Energy Agency, Dr Geoffrey Morrison, that the majority of Australia's coal-fired power stations are too old to be retro-fitted with clean coal technology:
- (1) For each state, can a list be provided which indicates: (a) existing coal-fired power stations suitable for the retro-fitting of post-combustion capture (PCC) technology for carbon capture and storage (CCS); and (b) for each of these stations, its generating capacity.
 - (2) For each state, can a list be provided which indicates: (a) existing coal-fired power stations which are not suitable for retro-fitting PCC technology; and (b) for each of these stations, its generating capacity.
 - (3) What does current research indicate is possible for CCS by 2020.
 - (4) (a) To date, what amount has been spent by the Government on clean coal technology; and (b) over the next 5 years, what amount has been budgeted for this purpose.
- 336 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy—With reference to the former Minister's advice, in July 2006, that she would consider releasing the KPMG report on Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) funding, or a version of the report, following discussion with the ABC board of directors:
- (1) Did the discussion with the ABC board take place; if so, when.
 - (2) Will the Minister now release the KPMG report; if not, why not.
- 337 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Education—In regard to the development of a national Australian history curriculum:
- (1) (a) What is the current process for developing the curriculum; and (b) how committed is the Minister to this process.

- (2) What is the rationale and vision behind the development of a national curriculum.
- (3) (a) What is the Minister's attitude towards consultation with state and territory education authorities on the curriculum; and (b) how will the consultation be achieved.
- (4) (a) How important is it for history teachers to be involved in the process of developing the curriculum; and (b) how will this involvement be achieved.
- (5) Given that the executive members of the History Teachers' Association of Australia and its state affiliates are busy working teachers who represent other busy working teachers, how can it be made easier for them to participate in consultation and syllabus development.
- (6) (a) In regard to both history and curriculum, how important is it to take into account the differing perspectives of states and territories; and (b) how will these differing perspectives be taken into account.
- (7) Can a proposed timeline be provided for the development of the national curriculum.

338 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations—

- (1) Does the Government intend to ratify the International Labour Organization's Maritime Labour Convention; if so, what is the timetable for ratification.
- (2) Will the Government provide additional resources to the Australian Maritime Safety Authority so that it can effect compliance with the convention.

Notice given 28 February 2008

Senator Ian Macdonald: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 339-340)—

- (1) Under Remuneration Tribunal determinations, are members and senators holding more than one office as a parliamentary office holder entitled to additional salary for each additional office, for example, is a person who is chair of a standing committee, chair of a legislative scrutiny standing committee and a temporary chair of committees entitled to additional salary in relation to each office.
- (2) Can a list be provided of all parliamentary office holders and the additional salary each office holder receives.

339 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

340 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

Notice given 4 March 2008

341 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy—Given that: (a) the national Energy Efficiency Opportunities program has been put in place to encourage large energy-using businesses to improve their energy efficiency; (b) participation is mandatory for an estimated 250 companies that use more than 0.5 petajoules of energy per year; and (c) the deadline for obligated corporations to submit work schedules was 31 December 2007:

- (1) How many work schedules have been submitted.
- (2) What is the level of compliance.

- (3) (a) What is the compliance standard of the work schedules submitted; (b) are they to a professional standard; and (c) have any of the companies been requested to resubmit work schedules due to a poor standard of auditing.
 - (4) What level of energy savings do the submitted work plans represent.
 - (5) On average, what is the percentage of savings identified.
- 342 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy—With reference to the recommendations on energy efficiency contained in the International Energy Agency's (IEA) review of Australia's energy market and policies, *Energy Policies of IEA Countries—Australia – 2005*:
- (1) What plans are in place to address these recommendations.
 - (2) What level of abatement has the National Framework for Energy Efficiency (NFEE) programs achieved to date.
 - (3) Given the statements in the January/February 2008 edition of the Clean Energy Council's magazine, *EcoGeneration*, that the 'NFEE process has been hamstrung by a combination of inter-jurisdictional disputes and rivalries, a lack of senior ministerial interest, and active resistance from vested interests and sections of the bureaucracy' and that the NFEE process is failing on implementation, what actions are being undertaken to progress the NFEE implementation program (for example, increased resource levels, independent advice, improving cooperation between jurisdictions).
- 343 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy—Given the statement of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts prior to the 2007 election that the Australian Labor Party was committed to a national energy efficiency goal that 'will put Australia on track to being at the forefront of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) energy efficiency improvement':
- (1) Does this election commitment equate to a numerical energy efficiency or energy intensity target.
 - (2) How will this be achieved.
- 344 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy—Given: (a) the announcement of the then Minister for the Environment and Water Resources on 20 February 2007 that conventional, incandescent light bulbs are to be phased out over the next 3 years and replaced with energy-saving globes; (b) the release of a discussion paper on 17 December 2007 on the proposed phase-out of incandescent bulbs and a minimum energy standard of 15 lumens per watt by 2010 and 20 lumens per watt by 2013; (c) that market-proven compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) represent more than 15 per cent of the market share, with sales increasing rapidly and exponentially; (d) that CFLs are typically 60 lumens per watt, which is four times more efficient than the cut-off threshold proposed in the discussion paper; (e) that the additional benefits of high efficiency lighting are the energy savings and longer lifetime; and (f) that compared to incandescent lamps, high efficiency lighting saves in the order of \$50 to \$100 over its lifetime, has, on average, a 3 year payback and delivers a very competitive greenhouse abatement cost of \$3 per tonne:
- (1) What policy options, other than the Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS), were considered.
 - (2) Was a simplified energy label, supported by government promotion of high efficiency lighting solutions or rebates for efficient lamps, considered.

- (3) What role did industry play in forming this standard.
 - (4) Given that setting a higher MEPS level and faster timetable or faster MEPS would be consistent with the Minister's policy objectives, why is a lower and slower MEPS being implemented.
- 345 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy—With reference to the former Prime Minister's announcement on 28 April 2007 of a nuclear strategy, detailed in the press release 'Uranium mining and nuclear energy: a way forward for Australia', which included four work plans to increase uranium exports and to prepare for a potential expansion of the nuclear industry in Australia:
- (1) Can an update on the work plans be provided.
 - (2) What budget allocation has been made.
 - (3) Will the work plans become public documents.
 - (4) What will be the mechanisms for public consideration.
 - (5) Given that, in 2006, the then Prime Minister and the then Minister for Foreign Affairs were talking up the prospects of a uranium enrichment industry in Australia and referred to enrichment as 'value adding', claiming that future generations would lament the fact that we did not add value to Australian uranium, just as current generations lament the fact that we did not add value to Australian wool in the past, what are the Government's plans, if any, in regards to uranium enrichment.
 - (6) Has the Australian Secret Intelligence Service received any advice on how our near neighbours, for example Indonesia, would respond if the Government were to approve a uranium enrichment plant in Australia.
- 346 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—With reference to the *Tracking to the Kyoto Target 2006* report which indicated that Australia will exceed its Kyoto target of 108 per cent of 1990 level emissions by 2010 by 6 million tonnes and the *Tracking to the Kyoto Target 2007* report which includes new 'with measures' measures announced recently by the Government:
- (1) Given that during additional estimates hearings of the Finance and Public Administration Committee in February 2008 it was confirmed that the expansion of the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target will not occur until 2010 and that this may lead to increased energy demand being met by fossil fuel generated electricity at the expense of renewable energy projects, does the Government intend to meet Australia's Kyoto target.
 - (2) What are the assumptions and the abatement levels attributed to the new 'with measures' measures.
- 347 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—Given: (a) the Government's in-principle greenhouse emissions targets, as outlined in their election policy, to achieve a 60 per cent reduction below 2000 levels by 2050; (b) at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bali, Indonesia in December 2006, Australia stated it supported the in-principle science-based targets of 25 per cent to 40 per cent reduction by 2020 for developed nations and at least 50 per cent reduction in global greenhouse pollution by 2050; and (c) that a 33 per cent reduction over 12 years would involve all sectors at a cost of 5 per cent of gross domestic product (or in current terms, \$50 billion a year):
- (1) (a) When will the Government adopt a target for 2020; and (b) how will this target be met.

- (2) Given that Australia's emissions are still increasing, relative to 1990 emissions, in what year will Australia's greenhouse emissions start to decrease, relative to 1990 levels.
 - (3) From what sectors will these reductions come.
- 348 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—Given that: (a) the transport and stationary energy sectors are the largest greenhouse emitting sectors in Australia; (b) the stationary energy and other sectors have much less capacity for reductions than the transport sector; (c) motor vehicles are responsible for approximately 80 per cent of transport emissions, with public transport responsible for 3 per cent; (d) with oil approaching \$US100 a barrel, demand for mass transport has risen by 20 per cent since the beginning of 2007 and is likely to rise another 10 per cent in 2008:
- (1) What plan is in place to achieve cuts from the transport sector by 2010.
 - (2) What strategic direction has been provided to state governments in line with stated greenhouse emission cuts.
 - (3) What strategic direction and actions are being taken to develop alternative fuels.
 - (4) What plans are there to abolish tax concessions and subsidies for road transport.
- 349 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—With reference to the statement, during additional estimates hearings of the Finance and Public Administration Committee on 22 February 2008, that the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (MRET) will not be expanded before 2010 and given that: (a) the MRET has been fully subscribed since 2006 and that there are approximately 7 million surplus Renewable Energy Certificates; (b) in order to drive new investment, industry requires an increase on the 2008 MRET and progressive increases in the MRET to 2020; (c) the renewable energy industry claims that delaying the expansion of the MRET will result in stalling investment; and (d) in 2005, Australian Labor Party state governments agreed to roll in state-based schemes in the event of the national target being expanded:
- (1) In line with the Government's election policy, what are the proposed annual MRETs from 2008 to 2020.
 - (2) What assessment and analysis has been undertaken on the impacts to the renewable energy industry of expanding the MRET in 2008, compared to 2020.
 - (3) What analysis has been undertaken on the greenhouse impacts of delaying the expansion of the MRET to 2010.
- 350 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—Given that: (a) the Government has announced that an emissions trading scheme (ETS) will be implemented by 2010; (b) there is an increased trend in individuals undertaking voluntary action to reduce their greenhouse impacts and that, in the absence of quantification or regulation, these voluntary actions will result in individuals subsidising liable ETS participants to meet the pollution reduction targets; (c) currently Kyoto Gold Standard is the only verified standard of emission reduction; (d) the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has announced that it is targeting environmental market offers, such as offsets, notwithstanding its claims that the offset market is unregulated and can not be quantified; (e) in the absence of this regulation, only investment in overseas Kyoto Gold Standard projects will result in guaranteed global greenhouse gas emissions

reductions; and (f) without regulation and quantification of voluntary action, the liable polluters cap under an ETS can not be adjusted by the level of the voluntary action:

- (1) What plans are in progress to separate, regulate and quantify voluntary action markets, such as offsets, and to quantify impacts so that the ETS cap can be adjusted.
- (2) What plans are there to introduce consumer protection through regulating offset markets.

351 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research—With reference to the consultancy commissioned under the Asia Pacific Partnership (APP) on Clean Development and Climate by the department with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), ‘Costs and Diffusion Barriers to Deployment of Low Emission Technologies for APP’ and given that: (a) EPRI have stated in the terms of reference that it will only consider wind and solar thermal as part of the large-scale renewable energy technologies; (b) of the solar thermal technologies under consideration, only troughs and towers are being considered as these are the dominant solar thermal technologies used in the United States of America; (c) the Australian solar thermal technologies of Big Dish and Linear Fresnel are being specifically excluded, as are geothermal and large-scale photovoltaic technology (like solar systems); and (d) EPRI has also stated that it will only use performance and cost data which is in the public domain, which excludes some Australian developing renewable energy technologies, some of which have received Government funding:

- (1) What are the low emissions technologies being considered under the consultancy.
- (2) Why are the Australian technologies listed above being excluded from consideration.
- (3) Is nuclear power being considered.

352 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—What plans and progress have been made to implement the Government’s following election commitments to:

- (a) invest \$1 billion in urban desalination, water recycling and stormwater capture projects that are consistent with environmental best practice and carbon neutral;
- (b) invest \$250 million towards modernising and repairing existing water systems and infrastructure in our towns and cities;
- (c) establish a national target of recycling 30 per cent of wastewater by 2015;
- (d) invest \$250 million in direct rebates for rainwater tanks and greywater systems in households;
- (e) help households with low-interest green loans of \$10 000 so that they can more easily install water and energy efficient products, such as rainwater tanks and solar hot water;
- (f) work with industry, farmers and community groups to return water to rivers and conserve water in towns and cities; and
- (g) bring forward \$400 million in spending under the National Plan for Water Security to fast-track improvements in water efficiency and to significantly invest in key water infrastructure projects and address over-allocation.

353 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Water—

- (1) With reference to media reports that, since the commencement of Murray Darling Basin permanent water allocation trading, the cost of permanent water allocations has risen by 2 000 per cent over the past 2 years, what is the trend and the cost increase since the commencement of water trading.
- (2) Acknowledging that trading occurs within the confines of the basin cap, to what extent is water trading increasing or decreasing the demand on the river relative to the cap.
- (3) What is the incidence of ‘sleeper’ water allocations (that is, water allocations that have been inactive or underutilised coming to market), water theft, evaporation and other losses that increase the demand on the river and that have otherwise not been accounted for.
- (4) What compliance measures are being considered to enforce allocations or adjust for unanticipated losses.
- (5) (a) Has there been any purchase of permanent water allocations for the environment; (b) what has been the level of these purchases; (c) have they been purchased from the market; (d) were they purchased from willing sellers; and (e) how is it ascertained that these sellers were willing.
- (6) What is the trend of water allocations being traded from grazing, farming or horticultural enterprises to managed investment schemes.
- (7) What level of trading is occurring between districts or between states.
- (8) What coordination is there between state governments.
- (9) What is the level of participation of non-water users (speculative investors, state governments or others) within the market.
- (10) What level of regulation applies to the water market.
- (11) What review has been undertaken of the workings of the water market.
- (12) Has there been any analysis of the financial impact, including the ability to pass on costs to end users by farming type (for example, graziers, dairy farmers, horticulturists).
- (13) (a) What assistance to farmers and communities experiencing hardship due to water price increases, reduced water allocations or a loss of productive farming capacity is being progressed; and (b) could this include interest rate relief, income support and/or walk-off and adjustment packages.
- (14) What partnership programs, between government and farmers, exist for the transition to lower water use practices, infrastructure improvement or other drought-proofing activities.
- (15) If it is commonplace for markets, such as the energy market, to be regulated or administered, has the appointment of a regulator of the water market with responsibility to administer, oversee and intervene in the market to achieve economic and community, social and environmental outcomes and with the power to suspend or restrict trading, prevent profiteering or speculation by non-water users, determine carryover, water banking provisions and emergency water supply measures and make all decisions transparent and in full consultation with state governments and stakeholders been considered.

Notice given 5 March 2008

354 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Education—In regard to braille education in Australia:

- (1) Does the Government recognise that, despite being designed, developed and manufactured in Australia for more than 15 years, several leading educational tools for early braille literacy, including the Mountbatten Braille and Jot-a-Dot, have not been made available to blind or vision impaired children.
- (2) Does the Government consider it acceptable that the two devices used for early braille learning in Australian schools date from the 1830's and 1950, the Slate and Stylus and the Perkins Braille respectively.
- (3) Will the Government ensure that the 'education revolution' is extended to children who are blind or vision impaired.
- (4) Will the program to provide a 'computer for every student' include basic assistive technology solutions for children who are blind or vision impaired.
- (5) How will the Government address the inequity in early education for children who are blind or vision impaired.

355 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—With reference to proposals by the Council of Australian Government to introduce national systems of registration and accreditation for the Australian health workforce by July 2008:

- (1) Has the Government identified a final model for the registration and accreditation systems; if so: (a) can a copy of the models be provided; (b) has it been agreed to by the nine health care professions included in the initiative; and (c) have all states and territories signed on to it.
- (2) Will the systems be operational by July 2008; if not, what is the new timeline.
- (3) Is the Government still committed to national registration and accreditation systems for the health workforce.

356 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy—

- (1) What is the current status of planning for a proposed national nuclear waste repository, or repositories, for: (a) low-level radioactive waste; (b) short-lived intermediate-level radioactive waste; and (c) long-lived intermediate-level radioactive waste, including reprocessed spent fuel rods from the High Flux Australian Reactor and the Open Pool Australian Lightwater research reactor.
- (2) What sites are being considered for each of these categories of radioactive waste product.
- (3) Will the Government proceed with the former Government's acceptance of the application by the Northern Land Council (NLC) for a repository to be sited at Muckaty Station in the Northern Territory.
- (4) (a) Has the proposed \$12 million grant, in consideration of the application, been paid to the NLC; if not, when will it be paid; (b) what conditions, if any, were imposed on the use of the grant; and (c) can a copy of the agreement between the Government and the NLC be provided.

- (5) (a) Has the previously announced detailed assessment of the Muckaty Station site's physical and biological suitability been completed; if not, when will this be done; if so, can a copy of the assessment be provided.
- (6) What is the time frame in which the environmental assessment will be completed.
- (7) Will the proposal be a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conversation Act 1999*.
- (8) How is waste proposed to be transported to the repository.

357 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research—

- (1) What progress has been made towards repairing the Open Pool Australian Lightwater research reactor following its shutdown in July 2007.
- (2) What is the anticipated date of the reactor recommencing operation.
- (3) What has been the cost, so far, of lost income for: (a) nuclear medicine production; (b) neutron beam research; and (c) industrial irradiation services.
- (4) (a) What is the anticipated final amount for lost income from the reactor; and (b) will INVAP S.E. be required to pay compensation for these losses.
- (5) Have the process improvements described in the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation report, *Summary – Fuel assembly design modification to incorporate a stopper – E0083*, dated 19 December 2007, been implemented; if so, what is the additional operational cost of these improvements.

Notice given 6 March 2008

358 **Senator Colbeck:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) With reference to the tender being conducted on behalf of the department by Spencer Smith and Associates into the Intensive Care Unit at the Mersey Community Hospital: (a) what is the background of Spencer Smith and Associates, including examples of previous similar consultancies in regional hospitals; (b) when was Spencer Smith and Associates registered as a company; (c) what are the professional qualifications of those undertaking the tender, including Dr Michael Smith, Associate Professor Anthony Burrell and Dr Hugh Burke; (d) how many visits did the tenderer make to the hospital; (e) which personnel of the hospital did the tenderer interview on site; and (f) with which personnel of other health service facilities in the north and north-west of Tasmania did the tenderer meet.
- (2) Given that the tender documents provide that the tenderer must consult 'other local groups identified by the Commonwealth' in developing advice: (a) which local groups were identified by the Commonwealth to the tenderer; and (b) on what dates did the tenderer meet with each group.

Notice given 7 March 2008

359 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) With reference to the current reassessment by the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) of its advice concerning the funding of Positron Emission Tomography (PET) for melanoma, colorectal and ovarian cancer, have the MSAC recommendations for public funding for these indications been received by the Minister; if so, what is the timeline for approval by the Minister.
- (2) With reference to the advice provided by Mr Kingdon, First Assistant Secretary of the Medical Benefits Division, during an additional estimates hearing of the Community Affairs Committee that the 2007 recommendations ‘went through an earlier process, but because we had an intervening election we had to restart again’ (Committee *Hansard*, 20 February 2008, p. 59P), why was it necessary to ‘restart again’ and what bearing did the election have on the advice provided.
- (3) Given that the MSAC’s website indicates assessments will be completed in 56 weeks, yet the MSAC had already assessed these indications in 2000 or 2001 and the MSAC signed off on the protocols used for collecting the data that was presented for review in 2006, why did the reassessment of these indications take essentially the same length of time as normal assessments.
- (4) On what dates were these indications considered by the MSAC and the MSAC Advisory Committee meetings.
- (5) With reference to the proposed reassessment by the MSAC of evidence concerning the funding of PET for sarcoma, lymphoma, brain tumours and oesophageal, head, neck and cervical cancers: (a) has the data on all these indications been collected; (b) where data has been collected, which indications are currently being considered by the MSAC; and (c) when will the MSAC’s advice be provided to the Minister.
- (6) Will the MSAC be preparing advice concerning the funding of PET for: (a) indications included under the current ministerial determinations but where data collection protocols have not been developed; (b) sub-groups of patients included within the current indications but not evaluated by the data collection protocols, for example, high grade lymphoma and Hodgkins disease; and (c) indications that have not been previously considered by the MSAC, such as breast cancer, the evaluation of lung cancer patients after primary treatment, therapeutic monitoring and tumours in childhood and infancy.
- (7) In each case referred to in paragraph (6), if not, why not.
- (8) If it is the case that the Government does not normally fund projects like the current PET data collection: (a) what is the estimated cost of such data collection (not including the cost of the PET scans); (b) what unique data has been provided by the collection process; (c) is it the case that the data collection protocols did not include a methodology for assessing costs and effectiveness; if so, why, given the fact that the MSAC’s original assessment of PET did not find sufficient evidence to draw conclusions about the clinical or cost effectiveness of PET.

360 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) How many new surgical procedures have been put to the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) for consideration since 2004.
- (2) (a) Of these procedures, how many have been recommended by the MSAC to the Minister for funding; and (b) of these recommended procedures: (i) how many have been approved, and (ii) which procedures have not been approved.
- (3) (a) Which surgical procedures remain to be assessed by the MSAC; and (b) of these procedures, which have been with the MSAC for more than 16 months and what are the reasons for the lack of progress on the assessments.

Notice given 11 March 2008

361 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) How many overseas trained doctors enter Australia every year on temporary visas.
- (2) Can the Minister confirm that overseas trained doctors entering Australia on temporary visas are not required to: (a) have their competency assessed by the Australian Medical Council (AMC); and/or (b) pass any standardised assessment process.
- (3) Can the Minister confirm that overseas trained doctors who are permanent residents and agree to work in 'areas of need' or 'districts of workforce shortage' are also not required to: (a) have their competency assessed by the AMC; and/or (b) pass any standardised assessment process.
- (4) Given that overseas trained doctors who are permanent residents and wish to practise unconditionally are required to pass the AMC examination, when will the same standards be applied to overseas trained doctors who have entered Australia on temporary visas.
- (5) Is work still underway on the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreement on a national assessment system for overseas trained doctors.
- (6) Given that COAG agreed to have a national assessment system for overseas trained doctors in place by the end of 2006, why was this deadline not met.
- (7) When does the Government anticipate that the national assessment system will be operational.

362 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Education—
With reference to the National School Chaplaincy Programme:

- (1) What are the 'regular' reports required of participating schools.
- (2) How does a school demonstrate that it has: (a) consulted with the broad school community on whether or not it should apply for funding; (b) consulted with the broad school community and established clear consensus on the demand for, role of and faith or denomination of the chaplain; (c) advised students and parents or caregivers that participation in the services provided is not compulsory; and (d) explained the opt out processes for individual students.
- (3) How and when will the program be evaluated.

- (4) Will key performance indicators be applied in schools on the performance of chaplains.
- (5) Can students opt out on their own account; if so, from what age.
- (6) Are schools required to report on the number of students opting out.
- (7) Are schools required to report on complaints made against chaplains taking advantage of their privileged position to proselytise for their denomination or religious belief; if so: (a) how many complaints of this type have been reported; (b) by whom (students, teachers, parents or staff) were they reported; and (c) what is the nature of the complaints.
- (8) Does the Government consider it appropriate for chaplains to evangelise, as defined by the Queensland Government as 'engagement and dialogue with a student/s with intent to attract to a particular faith group'.
- (9) Are schools required to report on the process or processes adopted for complaints about proselytising.
- (10) Are schools required to advise students, staff and parents of the prohibition on proselytising.
- (11) Does the Government consider it appropriate for chaplains in government schools to conduct religious instruction before whole-of-school activities, such as prayers at assemblies, graduation ceremonies, ANZAC day or the like.
- (12) Are the job descriptions issued by organisations involved in providing chaplains in schools consistent with the prohibition of proselytising.
- (13) Are schools required to report on the content of these job descriptions.
- (14) Can a copy of the Queensland-based Scripture Union's job description be provided; if not, why not.
- (15) Why do the guidelines for the program adopt opt out as opposed to opt in options.
- (16) Is it acceptable for chaplains to press students to sign a pledge that they will not have sex before marriage.
- (17) Is a school principal, parents body or chaplain organising body, or combination of these, required to vet materials provided or shown to students in class or elsewhere.
- (18) How do schools demonstrate that chaplains do not provide services that they are not qualified to provide, such as psychological or medical assessments or referrals.
- (19) What qualifications does the Government consider necessary for chaplains to hold in order to provide: (a) counselling; (b) guidance to students on issues concerning human relationships; and (c) support, in cases of bereavement, family breakdown or other crisis and loss situations.
- (20) What level of physical contact with a student does the Government consider acceptable when a student is distraught.
- (21) If confidentiality is sought by a student in his or her dealings with a chaplain, must this be respected by the chaplain.
- (22) Are chaplains required to belong to a professional body, such as the Australian College of Chaplains; if not, why not.
- (23) If a student seeks information about services related to pregnancy, is the chaplain obliged to provide information that is accurate and impartial.

- (24) If a student seeks information about services relating to same-sex attraction, is the chaplain obliged to provide information that is accurate and impartial.
- (25) Are schools required to report on the qualifications of chaplains.
- (26) Which states and which religious institutions, if any, accept the qualification of chaplains who: (a) have not passed year 12; and/or (b) do not have recognised formal post-secondary qualifications.
- (27) (a) What qualifications, if any, are required to become a chaplain; and (b) if no qualifications are necessary, what is the definition of a chaplain.

Notice given 12 March 2008

- 363 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—With reference to funding priorities for the 2006 Living in Harmony Funded Community Projects:
- (1) What are the Australian values that funded community projects will promote.
 - (2) How were these values identified.
 - (3) (a) What criteria are being used to evaluate grant applications in regard to the promotion of Australian values; and (b) how were they developed.
- 364 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—With reference to the asylum seekers currently being assessed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Indonesia of which some are under the care of the International Organisation for Migration as funded by the Australian Government:
- (1) (a) If granted protection by Australia, would the asylum seekers be given permanent protection visas or temporary protection visas; and (b) if granted temporary protection visas, what would be the length of those visas.
 - (2) Have the Indonesian authorities and/or the UNHCR requested that a solution be found for this group of people.
 - (3) Does Australia intend to accept any of this group of people in its refugee or humanitarian intake; if so: (a) how many; and (b) in what time frame would these people be accepted.
- 365 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—With reference to a group of 82 Sri Lankan asylum seekers that was previously held for processing in Nauru:
- (1) While on Christmas Island, when and how were the asylum seekers first informed that they could contact a lawyer.
 - (2) What facilities were made available to the asylum seekers in order to facilitate this contact.
 - (3) Did the asylum seekers express, to any departmental officers or contracted staff, a wish that they wanted to contact a lawyer or migration agent.
- 366 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—With reference to a group of 82 Sri Lankan asylum seekers that was previously held for processing in Nauru, what were the total costs of: (a) the charter flight to transport the asylum seekers from Christmas Island to Nauru; and (b) any charter flights to transport personnel to Nauru to facilitate the arrival of the asylum seekers.

- 367 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—
- (1) What is the current rate that the Government of Nauru charges for asylum seekers brought to Nauru for processing, including costs for visas, charges and other expenses.
 - (2) What penalties or recurring payments are charged by Nauru for asylum seekers that are processed on Nauru for more than 3 months.
 - (3) Since 2001, what is the total amount of visa payments made to Nauru for all asylum seekers that have been taken there for processing.
- 368 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship—
- (1) (a) Can an itemised breakdown of the total cost incurred in the case of Ms Vivian Solon be provided, including the costs of legal fees and administrative and other related costs; and (b) if any of the costs referred to in (a) are ongoing, can the costs to date be provided.
 - (2) What is the total fee that has been paid to Mr Tom Hughes QC.
 - (3) What has been the total cost and staff hours required to process Freedom of Information requests and to produce subpoenaed documents relating to Ms Solon's case.
- 369 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—
- (1) At any point during the recent Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, in Sydney, were the spouses of the APEC leaders transported by a coach with a parquet floor; if so: (a) where did the coach come from and how was it transported to Sydney; (b) why was it deemed necessary for the leaders' spouses to be transported in this manner; and (c) who made the decision about what level of luxury the leaders' spouses would travel in.
 - (2) What were the costs and the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the transport of the coach to Sydney.
 - (3) Can descriptions be provided of the other features of the vehicles that the leaders' spouses travelled in.

Notice given 13 March 2008

- *370 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Education— Given that the report of the internal departmental review on the effectiveness of the socioeconomic status (SES) funding arrangements, *Review of SES funding arrangements for non-government schools*, is available on the Sydney Morning Herald website, will the Government now release the report publicly; if not, why not.
- *371 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs—
- (1) Is the Minister aware of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) Safe Abortion Action Fund, established in 2006 to support services and information to reduce unsafe abortion worldwide and to offset the fall in reproductive health funding as a result of the United States Global Gag Rule which denies family planning funds to any foreign non-government organisation that uses its own money to provide legal abortion services or counselling, gives referrals on safe abortion options, provides facts about the consequences of unsafe abortion or participates in public debate, no matter how informal, that might improve access to safe services.

- (2) Is the Minister aware that the governments of the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland have provided approximately \$15 million in funding to support the IPPF fund.
- (3) Is the Minister aware that in its first call for proposals the IPPF fund received 222 proposals totalling more than \$43 million.
- (4) How much funding does the Government currently provide to the IPPF fund.
- (5) How much funding does the Government intend to provide to the IPPF fund.

ORDERS OF THE SENATE

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Amendment to an order of continuing effect

1 Departmental and agency contracts—Order for production of documents

That paragraph (7) of the order be amended to read as follows:

- (7) The Finance and Public Administration Committee consider the ongoing operation of the order and report on relevant developments from time to time.

(Agreed to 1 March 2007 upon adoption of recommendation 13 in the Finance and Public Administration Committee's second report on the operation of the Senate order for the production of lists of departmental and agency contracts (2003-06).)

Committees

2 Amendment of committee names; Allocation of departments

- (1) That standing order 25(1) be amended as follows:
 - Omit: 'Employment, Workplace Relations and Education'
 - Substitute: 'Education, Employment and Workplace Relations'
 - Omit: 'Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts'
 - Substitute: 'Environment, Communications and the Arts'.

- (2) That departments and agencies be allocated to legislative and general purpose standing committees as follows:

Community Affairs

Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Health and Ageing

Economics

Treasury
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
Resources, Energy and Tourism

Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Environment, Communications and the Arts

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

Finance and Public Administration

Parliament
Prime Minister and Cabinet (including Climate Change)
Finance and Deregulation
Human Services

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Foreign Affairs and Trade
Defence (including Veterans' Affairs)

Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Attorney-General
Immigration and Citizenship

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

(Agreed to 13 February 2008.)

3 Privileges—Standing Committee—Adoption of 94th report recommendation

That the Senate authorise the President, if required, to engage counsel as *amicus curiae* if either the action for defamation against Mr David Armstrong or a similar action against Mr William O'Chee is set down for trial.

(Agreed to 4 September 2000.)

4 Unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings

That the following order operate as an order of continuing effect:

- (1) The Senate confirms that any disclosure of evidence or documents submitted to a committee, of documents prepared by a committee, or of deliberations of a committee, without the approval of the committee or of the Senate, may be treated by the Senate as a contempt.
- (2) The Senate reaffirms its resolution of 20 June 1996, relating to procedures to be followed by committees in cases of unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings.

- (3) The Senate provides the following guidelines to be observed by committees in applying that resolution, and declares that the Senate will observe the guidelines in determining whether to refer a matter to the Committee of Privileges:
1. Unless there are particular circumstances involving actual or potential substantial interference with the work of a committee or of the Senate, the following kinds of unauthorised disclosure should not be raised as matters of privilege:
 - (a) disclosure of a committee report in the time between the substantial conclusion of the committee's deliberations on the report and its presentation to the Senate;
 - (b) disclosure of other documents prepared by a committee and not published by the committee, where the committee would have published them, or could appropriately have published them, in any event, or where they contain only research or publicly-available material, or where their disclosure is otherwise inconsequential;
 - (c) disclosure of documents and evidence submitted to a committee and not published by the committee, where the committee would have published them, or could appropriately have published them, in any event;
 - (d) disclosure of private deliberations of a committee where the freedom of the committee to deliberate is unlikely to be significantly affected.
 2. The following kinds of unauthorised disclosure are those for which the contempt jurisdiction of the Senate should primarily be reserved, and which should therefore be raised as matters of privilege:
 - (a) disclosure of documents or evidence submitted to a committee where the committee has deliberately decided to treat the documents or evidence as in camera material, for the protection of witnesses or others, or because disclosure would otherwise be harmful to the public interest;
 - (b) disclosure of documents prepared by a committee where that involves disclosure of material of the kind specified in paragraph (a);
 - (c) disclosure of private deliberations of a committee where that involves disclosure of that kind of material, or significantly impedes the committee's freedom to deliberate.
 3. An unauthorised disclosure not falling into the categories in guidelines 1 and 2 should not be raised as a matter of privilege unless it involves actual or potential substantial interference with the work of a committee or of the Senate.
 4. When considering any unauthorised disclosure of material in the possession of a committee, the committee should consider whether there was any substantive reason for not publishing that material.
- (4) Before deciding to raise a matter of privilege involving possible unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings, any committee may seek the guidance of the Committee of Privileges as to whether a matter should be pursued. If the committee decides that such a matter should be raised, it must consult with the Committee of Privileges before taking the matter further.

- (5) When applying this resolution a committee shall have regard to the matters set out in paragraphs 3.43 to 3.59 of the 122nd Report of the Committee of Privileges, June 2005.

(Sessional order agreed to on 6 October 2005 adopted as an order of continuing effect on 17 September 2007.)

5 Substitute members of committees—Temporary order

That the following operate as a temporary order until the conclusion of the 2008 sittings:

If a member of a committee appointed under standing order 25 is unable to attend a meeting of the committee, that member may in writing to the chair of the committee appoint a participating member to act as a substitute member of the committee at that meeting. If the member is incapacitated or unavailable, a letter to the chair of a committee appointing a participating member to act as a substitute member of the committee may be signed on behalf of the member by the leader of the party or group on whose nomination the member was appointed to the committee.

(Agreed to 13 February 2008 as part of a longer order—see also ‘Meeting of the Senate’ below.)

Estimates

6 2007-08 Additional estimates—2008-09 Budget estimates—Hearings

- (1) That estimates hearings by standing committees for 2008 be scheduled as follows:

2007-08 additional estimates:

Monday, 18 February and Tuesday, 19 February and, if required, Friday, 22 February (*Group A*)
 Wednesday, 20 February and Thursday, 21 February and, if required, Friday, 22 February (*Group B*).

2008-09 Budget estimates:

Monday, 26 May to Thursday, 29 May and, if required, Friday, 30 May (*Group A*)
 Monday, 2 June to Thursday, 5 June and, if required, Friday, 6 June (*Group B*)
 Monday, 20 October and Tuesday, 21 October, and if required, 24 October (*supplementary hearings—Group A*)
 Wednesday, 22 October and Wednesday, 23 October and, if required, 24 October (*supplementary hearings—Group B*).

- (2) That the committees consider the proposed expenditure in accordance with the allocation of departments and agencies to committees agreed to by the Senate.
- (3) That committees meet in the following groups:

Group A:

Environment, Communications and the Arts
 Finance and Public Administration
 Legal and Constitutional Affairs
 Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

Group B:

Community Affairs
 Economics
 Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
 Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

- (4) That the committees report to the Senate on the following dates:
- (a) Tuesday, 18 March 2008 in respect of the 2007-08 additional estimates; and
 - (b) Tuesday, 24 June 2008 in respect of the 2008-09 Budget estimates.

(Agreed to 13 February 2008.)

7 2007-08 Additional estimates—Answers to questions

The dates set by standing committees for answering questions taken on notice during the 2007-08 additional estimates are as follows:

Group A:

Environment, Communications, and the Arts	Thursday, 10 April 2008
Finance and Public Administration	Friday, 4 April 2008
Legal and Constitutional Affairs	Wednesday, 2 April 2008
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport	Wednesday, 9 April 2008

Group B:

Community Affairs	Friday, 11 April 2008
Economics	Friday, 11 April 2008
Education, Employment and Workplace Relations	Friday, 11 April 2008
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade	Thursday, 10 April 2008.

Standing order 74(5) takes effect 30 days after these dates.

Meeting of Senate**8 Meeting of Senate**

That the days of meeting of the Senate for 2008 be as follows:

Autumn sittings:

Tuesday, 12 February to Thursday, 14 February

Autumn sittings (2):

Tuesday, 11 March to Thursday, 13 March
 Monday, 17 March to Thursday, 20 March

Budget sittings:

Tuesday, 13 May to Thursday, 15 May

Winter sittings:

Monday, 16 June to Thursday, 19 June
 Monday, 23 June to Thursday, 26 June

Spring sittings:

Tuesday, 26 August to Thursday, 28 August
 Monday, 1 September to Thursday, 4 September
 Monday, 15 September to Thursday, 18 September
 Monday, 22 September to Thursday, 25 September
 Monday, 13 October to Thursday, 16 October

Spring sittings (2):

Monday, 10 November to Thursday, 13 November
 Monday, 24 November to Thursday, 27 November
 Monday, 1 December to Thursday, 4 December.

(Agreed to 13 February 2008.)

***9 Hours of meeting and routine of business—Variation**

- (1) On Monday, 17 March 2008:
 - (a) the hours of meeting shall be 12.30 pm to 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm to 11.40 pm;
 - (b) the routine of business from 7.30 pm shall be government business only; and
 - (c) the question for the adjournment of the Senate shall be proposed at 11 pm.
- (2) On Tuesday, 18 March 2008:
 - (a) the hours of meeting shall be 12.30 pm to 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm to adjournment;
 - (b) the routine of business from 7.30 pm shall be government business only; and
 - (c) the question for the adjournment of the Senate shall be proposed at 11 pm.

(Agreed to 13 March 2008.)

10 Adjournment debate on Tuesday—Temporary order

That the following operate as a temporary order until the conclusion of the 2008 sittings:

On the question for the adjournment of the Senate on Tuesday, a senator who has spoken once subject to the time limit of 10 minutes may speak again for not more than 10 minutes if no other senator who has not already spoken once wishes to speak, provided that a senator may by leave speak for not more than 20 minutes on one occasion.

(Agreed to 13 February 2008 as part of a longer order—see also ‘Committees’ above.)

11 Divisions on Thursday—Temporary order

That the following operate as a temporary order until the conclusion of the 2008 sittings:

If a division is called for on Thursday after 4.30 pm, the matter before the Senate shall be adjourned until the next day of sitting at a time fixed by the Senate.

(Agreed to 13 February 2008 as part of a longer order—see also ‘Committees’ above.)

Orders for production of documents

12 Family and Community Services—Housing Assistance agreements—Order for production of documents

- (1) That the Senate:
- (a) notes that the Housing Assistance (Form of Agreement) Determination 2003 in Schedule 1, subsections 4(33) to 4(36) requires states to report on expenditure and progress towards their respective bilateral agreements to the Commonwealth within 6 months after the end of each grant year;
 - (b) orders that there be laid on the table, no later than 3.30 pm on 12 May 2005, all reports provided by the states and territories to the Commonwealth under those provisions for the financial year 2003-04; and
 - (c) orders that all reports provided by the states and territories to the Commonwealth under those provisions be tabled in the Senate within 5 sittings days, or one calendar month, after receipt (whichever is the later), and that the Senate be notified in writing by the Minister for Family and Community Services within 5 sitting days of the expiration of the 6 months if reports have not been provided within the required 6 months.
- (2) That this order is of continuing effect.
(Motion of Senator Bartlett agreed to 12 May 2005.)

CONTINGENT NOTICES OF MOTION

Auditor-General's reports—Consideration

- 1 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**
Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)
Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)
Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)

To move (contingent on the President presenting a report of the Auditor-General on any day or notifying the Senate that such a report had been presented under standing order 166)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion to take note of the report and any senator speaking to it for not more than 10 minutes, with the total time for the debate not to exceed 60 minutes.

Conduct of business

- 2 **Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Evans):** To move (contingent on the Senate on any day concluding its consideration of any item of business and prior to the Senate proceeding to the consideration of another item of business)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent a minister moving a motion to provide for the consideration of any matter.

- 3 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**
Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)
Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)
Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)

To move (contingent on the Senate on any day concluding its consideration of any item of business and prior to the Senate proceeding to the consideration of another item of business)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion relating to the conduct of the business of the Senate or to provide for the consideration of any matter.

Government documents

- 4 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**
Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)
Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)
Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)

To move (contingent on the Senate proceeding to the consideration of government documents)—That so much of the standing orders relating to the consideration of government documents be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion relating to the order in which the documents are called on by the President.

Limitation of time

- Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**
Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)
Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)
Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)

- 5 To move (contingent on a minister moving a motion that a bill be considered an urgent bill)—That so much of standing order 142 be suspended as would prevent debate taking place on the motion.
- 6 To move (contingent on a minister moving a motion to specify time to be allotted to the consideration of a bill, or any stage of a bill)—That so much of standing order 142 be suspended as would prevent the motion being debated without limitation of time and each senator speaking for the time allotted by standing orders.
- 7 To move (contingent on the chair declaring that the time allotted for the consideration of a bill, or any stage of a bill, has expired)—That so much of standing order 142 be suspended as would prevent further consideration of the bill, or the stage of the bill, without limitation of time or for a specified period.

Matters of urgency

- 8 **Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Evans):** To move (contingent on the moving of a motion to debate a matter of urgency under standing order 75)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent a minister moving an amendment to the motion.

- 9 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**
Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)
Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)
Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)

To move (contingent on the moving of a motion to debate a matter of urgency under standing order 75)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving an amendment to the motion.

Order of business

- 10 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**
Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)
Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)
Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)

To move (contingent on the President proceeding to the placing of business on any day)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion relating to the order of business on the *Notice Paper*.

Questions without notice

- 11 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**
Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)
Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)
Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)

To move (contingent on a minister at question time on any day asking that further questions be placed on notice)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion that, at question time on any day, questions may be put to ministers until 28 questions, including supplementary questions, have been asked and answered.

Statements

- 12 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**
Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)
Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)
Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)

To move (contingent on any senator being refused leave to make a statement to the Senate)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent that senator making that statement.

Tabling of documents

- 13 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)**
Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)
Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)
Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Scullion)

To move (contingent on any senator being refused leave to table a document in the Senate)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving that the document be tabled.

TEMPORARY CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES

Senators Barnett, Bartlett, Bishop, Carol Brown, Chapman, Forshaw, Hutchins, Kirk, Lightfoot, Sandy Macdonald, McEwen, Marshall, Moore, Murray, Troeth and Watson

CATEGORIES OF COMMITTEES

Standing Committees

- **Legislative and General Purpose**
 - Community Affairs
 - Economics
 - Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
 - Environment, Communications and the Arts
 - Finance and Public Administration
 - Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
 - Legal and Constitutional Affairs
 - Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
- **Legislative Scrutiny**
 - Regulations and Ordinances
 - Scrutiny of Bills
- **Standing (Domestic)**
 - Appropriations and Staffing
 - House
 - Library
 - Privileges
 - Procedure
 - Publications
 - Selection of Bills
 - Senators' Interests

Select Committees

Agricultural and Related Industries
Housing Affordability in Australia
State Government Financial Management

Joint Committees

- **Standing**
 - Electoral Matters
 - Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
 - Migration
 - National Capital and External Territories
 - Parliamentary Library
 - Treaties
- **Statutory**
 - Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity
 - Australian Crime Commission
 - Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings
 - Corporations and Financial Services
 - Intelligence and Security
 - Public Accounts and Audit
 - Public Works

Details appear in the following section, with committees listed in alphabetical order.

COMMITTEES

Agricultural and Related Industries—Select Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/agric_ctte/index.htm

(appointed 14 February 2008; reporting date: 16 June 2008)

Members

Senator Heffernan (*Chair*), Senator O'Brien (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Fisher, Milne, Nash and Sterle

Appropriations and Staffing—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/APP_CTTE/index.htm

Members

The President (*Chairman*), the Leader of the Government in the Senate, the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, and Senators Faulkner, Lundy, Murray, Nash, Parry and Ray

Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity—Joint Statutory Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/aclei_ctte/index.htm

Members

Senator Campbell (*Chair*), Senator Fierravanti-Wells (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Carol Brown and Parry and Mr Clare, Mr Hayes, Mr McGauran, Ms Parke and Mr Pyne

Australian Crime Commission—Joint Statutory Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/acc_ctte/index.htm

Members

Senator Hutchins (*Chair*), Mr Wood (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Barnett, Parry and Polley and Mr Champion, Mr Gibbons, Mr Hayes and Mr Pyne

Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings—Joint Statutory Committee

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jcbpp/index.htm>

Members

The President, the Speaker, and Senators Cormann and O'Brien and Mr Hale, Mr Hawker, Mr Hayes, Mr Lindsay and Mr Price

Community Affairs—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/index.htm

Portfolios

Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; Health and Ageing

Members

Senator Moore (*Chair*), Senator Humphries (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Adams, Allison, Boyce, Carol Brown, Lundy and Polley

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Barnett, Bartlett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Brandis, Bob Brown, Bushby, Campbell, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Forshaw, Heffernan, Hogg, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Kirk, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McEwen, McGauran, McLucas, Marshall, Mason, Milne, Minchin, Nash, Nettle, O'Brien, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Ray, Ronaldson, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Stott Despoja, Troeth, Trood, Watson, Webber and Wortley

Current inquiries

Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007 [2008] (*referred 14 February 2008; reporting date: 18 June 2008*)

Cost of living pressures on older Australians (*referred 14 June 2007; readopted 14 February 2008; reporting date: 20 March 2008*)

Mental health services in Australia (*referred 28 March 2007; readopted 14 February 2008; reporting date: 26 June 2008*)

Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008 (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 25 June 2008*)

Report presented

Matters not disposed of at the end of the 41st Parliament (*tabled 14 February 2008*)

Corporations and Financial Services—Joint Statutory Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/corporations_ctte/index.htm

Members

Mr Ripoll (*Chair*), Senator Chapman (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Boyce, Kirk, Murray and Webber and Ms Grierson, Mr Keenan, Ms Owens, and Mr Robert

Economics—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/economics_ctte/index.htm

Portfolios

Treasury; Innovation, Industry, Science and Research; Resources, Energy and Tourism

Members

Senator Hurley (*Chair*), Senator Eggleston (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Bishop, Bushby, Campbell, Joyce, Murray and Webber

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Allison, Barnett, Bartlett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Forshaw, Heffernan, Hogg, Humphries, Hutchins, Johnston, Kemp, Kirk, Lightfoot, Lundy, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McEwen, McGauran, McLucas, Marshall, Mason, Milne, Minchin, Moore, Nash, Nettle, O'Brien, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Polley, Ray, Ronaldson, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Troeth, Trood, Watson and Wortley

Current inquiries

Tax Laws Amendment (Personal Income Tax Reduction) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 1 May 2008*)

Renewable Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Power Percentage) Bill 2008 (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 30 May 2008*)

National Market Driven Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007 [2008] (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 30 May 2008*)

Report presented

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 (*presented to the President on 11 February 2008, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2008*)

Education, Employment and Workplace Relations—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eet_ctte/index.htm

(formerly *Employment, Workplace Relations and Education*; name amended 13 February 2008)

Portfolio

Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Members

Senator Marshall (*Chair*), Senator Watson (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Boyce, Campbell, Fisher, Sterle, Stott Despoja and Wortley

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Allison, Barnett, Bartlett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Bushby, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Forshaw, Heffernan, Hogg, Humphries, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Kirk, Lightfoot, Lundy, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McEwen, McGauran, McLucas, Mason, Milne, Minchin, Moore, Murray, Nash, Nettle, Parry, Patterson, Payne, O'Brien, Polley, Ray, Ronaldson, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Troeth, Trood and Webber

Current inquiry

Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Bill 2008 [Provisions] (*referred 14 February 2008; reporting date: 28 April 2008*)

Electoral Matters—Joint Standing Committee

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/em/index.htm>

(*appointed 14 February 2008*)

Members

Senators Birmingham, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Fifield and Hutchins and Mr Danby, Mr Melham, Mr Morrison, Mr Scott and Mr Sullivan

Current inquiry

2007 Federal Election (*referred 12 March 2008*)

Environment, Communications and the Arts—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/ecita_cte/index.htm

(*formerly Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts; name amended 13 February 2008*)

Portfolios

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts; Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

Members

Senator McEwen (*Chair*), Senator Bartlett (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Birmingham, Kemp, Lundy, Parry, Webber and Wortley

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Allison, Barnett, Bernardi, Bishop, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Bushby, Campbell, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Forshaw, Heffernan, Hogg, Humphries, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kirk, Lightfoot, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McGauran, McLucas, Marshall, Mason, Milne, Minchin, Moore, Nash, Nettle, O'Brien, Patterson, Payne, Polley, Ray, Ronaldson, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Stott Despoja, Troeth, Trood and Watson

Current inquiry

Sexualisation of children in the media (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 23 June 2008*)

Finance and Public Administration—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/fapa_cte/index.htm

Portfolios

Parliament; Prime Minister and Cabinet (including Climate Change); Finance and Deregulation; Human Services

Members

Senator Polley (*Chair*), Senator Fifield (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Carol Brown, Fierravanti-Wells, Forshaw, Moore, Murray and Watson

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Barnett, Bartlett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bob Brown, Bushby, Campbell, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fisher, Heffernan, Hogg, Humphries, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Kirk, Lightfoot, Lundy, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McEwen, McGauran, McLucas, Marshall, Mason, Milne, Minchin, Nash, Nettle, O'Brien, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Ray, Ronaldson, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Troeth, Trood, Webber and Wortley

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/index.htm>

(*appointed 14 February 2008*)

Members

Senator Forshaw (*Chair*), Mr Hawker (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Bartlett, Bishop, Cormann, Eggleston, Fifield, Kirk, Sandy Macdonald, Moore, Stott Despoja, Trood and Webber and Mr Baldwin, Mr Bevis, Mr Danby, Ms AL Ellis, Mr Gibbons, Ms Grierson Mr Hale, Mr Macfarlane, Mrs Mirabella, Ms Parke, Ms Rea, Mr Ripoll, Mr Robb, Mr Robert, Mr Ruddock, Ms Saffin, Mr Scott, Mr KJ Thomson and Ms Vamvakinou

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/FADT_CTTE/index.htm

Portfolios

Foreign Affairs and Trade; Defence (including Veterans' Affairs)

Members

Senator Bishop (*Chair*), Senator Trood (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Cormann, Forshaw, Hogg, Sandy Macdonald and McEwen

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Allison, Barnett, Bartlett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Bushby, Campbell, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Heffernan, Humphries, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Kirk, Lightfoot, Lundy, Ian Macdonald, McGauran, McLucas, Marshall, Mason, Milne, Minchin,

Moore, Nash, Nettle, O'Brien, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Polley, Ray, Ronaldson, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Stott Despoja, Troeth, Watson, Webber and Wortley

Current inquiries

Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations (*referred 8 November 2006; readopted 14 February 2008; reporting date: 15 May 2008*)

Review of reforms to Australia's military justice system by the Australian Defence Force (*adopted under standing order 25(2)(b), 22 June 2006; readopted 14 February 2008*)

Reports presented

The changing nature of Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations—Interim report (*presented to the President on 19 October 2007, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2008*)

Matters not disposed of at the end of the 41st Parliament (*tabled 14 February 2008*)

House—Standing Committee

Members

The President (*Chair*), the Deputy President, and Senators Crossin, Heffernan, Parry, Stephens and Wortley

Housing Affordability in Australia—Select Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/hsaf_ctte/index.htm

(*appointed 14 February 2008; reporting date: 16 June 2008*)

Members

Senator Payne (*Chair*), and Senators Bartlett, Colbeck, Fifield, Lundy and Moore

Participating members

Senators Bishop, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Campbell, Crossin, Fielding, Forshaw, Hogg, Hurley, Hutchins, Kirk, McEwen, McLucas, Marshall, Milne, Nettle, O'Brien, Polley, Ray, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Webber and Wortley

Intelligence and Security—Joint Statutory Committee

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pjcis/index.htm>

Members

Senators McGauran, Marshall, Nash and Ray and Mr Bevis, Mr Downer, Mr Dreyfus, Mr Melham and Mr Ruddock

Report presented

Review of the re-listing of three terrorist organisations (*presented to the Deputy President on 27 September 2007, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2008*)

Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/legcon_ctte/index.htm

Portfolios

Attorney-General; Immigration and Citizenship

Members

Senator Crossin (*Chair*), Senator Barnett (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Bartlett, Fisher, Kirk, McLucas, Marshall and Trood

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Allison, Bernardi, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Bushby, Campbell, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Forshaw, Heffernan, Hogg, Humphries, Hurley, Hutchins, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Lightfoot, Lundy, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McEwen, McGauran, Mason, Milne, Minchin, Moore, Murray, Nash, Nettle, O'Brien, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Polley, Ray, Ronaldson, Scullion, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Stott Despoja, Troeth, Watson, Webber and Wortley

Current inquiries

Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008 (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 1 May 2008*)

Stolen Generation Compensation Bill 2008 (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 16 June 2008*)

Report presented

Crimes Legislation Amendment (Child Sex Tourism Offences and Related Measures) Bill 2007 [Provisions] (*presented to the Deputy President on 10 October 2007, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2008*)

Library—Standing Committee

Members

The President (*Chair*), and Senators Allison, Barnett, Hutchins, Kirk, Trood and Webber

Migration—Joint Standing Committee

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/mig/index.htm>

(*appointed 14 February 2008*)

Members

Mr Danby (*Chair*), Mrs DS Vale (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Bartlett, Eggleston, McEwen and Polley and Ms D'Ath, Mr Georgiou, Mr Randall and Mr Zappia

National Capital and External Territories—Joint Standing Committee

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ncet/index.htm>

(appointed 14 February 2008)

Members

Senator Lundy (*Chair*), Mr Secker (*Deputy Chair*), and The Deputy President and Chairman of Committees, the Deputy Speaker, and Senators Crossin, Humphries, Joyce and Stott Despoja and Mr Adams, Ms AL Ellis, Mr Neville and Mr Turnour

Parliamentary Library—Joint Standing Committee

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jscpl/index.htm>

(appointed 14 February 2008)

Members

Senators Allison, Barnett, Hutchins, Kirk, Trood and Webber and Mr Adams, Mr Broadbent, Mr Butler, Mr Hawker, Ms Jackson, Mrs Mirabella and Mr Perrett

Privileges—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/priv_ctte/index.htm

Members

Senator Brandis (*Chair*), Senator Hurley (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators McGauran, McLucas, O'Brien, Payne and Ray

Current inquiry

Whether false or misleading evidence was given to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee or any other Senate committee concerning the Government's knowledge of the rendition of Mr Mamdouh Habib to Egypt, and whether any contempt was committed in that regard (*referred 18 September 2007*)

Procedure—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/proc_ctte/index.htm

Members

The Deputy President (*Chair*), the President, the Leader of the Government in the Senate, the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, and Senators Bartlett, Ellison, Faulkner, Hurley, Parry and Ray

Publications—Standing Committee

<http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/publ/index.htm>

Members

Senators Bernardi, Carol Brown, Marshall, Mason, Parry, Sterle and Wortley

Public Accounts and Audit—Joint Statutory Committee

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpac/index.htm>

Members

Ms Grierson (*Chair*), Mr Georgiou (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Bishop, Chapman, Hogg, Lundy, Murray and Watson and Mr Baldwin, Mr Bevis, Mr Bradbury, Mr Butler, Ms King, Mr Morrison, Mr Neumann and Mr Robert

Current inquiries

- * Certain taxation matters (*adopted 7 December 2005; readopted 12 March 2008*)
 - * Financial reporting and equipment acquisition at the Department of Defence and the Defence Materiel Organisation (*adopted 1 March 2006; readopted 12 March 2008*)
 - * Review of Auditor-General's reports (*statutory responsibility*)
-

Public Works—Joint Statutory Committee

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pwc/index.htm>

Members

Senators Bishop, Forshaw and Troeth and Mr Butler, Mr Champion, Mr Forrest, Mr Hale, Mr Lindsay and Mr Slipper

Regulations and Ordinances—Legislative Scrutiny Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/regord_ctte/index.htm

Members

Senator Wortley (*Chairman*), Senator Ronaldson (*Deputy Chairman*), and Senators Bartlett, Carol Brown, Cormann and Moore

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/rrat_ctte/index.htm

Portfolios

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government; Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Members

Senator Sterle (*Chair*), Senator Siewert (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Heffernan, Hutchins, Hurley, McGauran, Nash and O'Brien

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Adams, Allison, Barnett, Bernardi, Birmingham, Bishop, Boswell, Boyce, Brandis, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Bushby, Campbell, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Cormann, Crossin, Eggleston, Ellison, Fielding, Fierravanti-Wells, Fifield, Fisher, Forshaw, Hogg, Humphries, Johnston, Joyce, Kemp, Kirk, Lightfoot, Lundy, Ian Macdonald, Sandy Macdonald, McEwen, McLucas, Marshall, Mason, Milne, Minchin, Moore, Nettle, Parry, Patterson, Payne, Polley, Ray, Ronaldson, Scullion, Stephens, Troeth, Trood, Watson, Webber and Wortley

Current inquiries

Climate change and the Australian agricultural sector (*referred 19 September 2007; readopted 14 February 2008; reporting date: 4 September 2008*)

Exposure drafts of the Wheat Export Marketing Bill 2008 and the Wheat Export Marketing (Repeal and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008 (*referred 12 March 2008; reporting date: 24 April 2008*)

Report presented

Matters not disposed of at the end of the 41st Parliament (*tabled 14 February 2008*)

Scrutiny of Bills—Legislative Scrutiny Committee

<http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/scrutiny/index.htm>

Members

Senator Ellison (*Chairman*), Senator Bishop (*Deputy Chairman*), and Senators McEwen, Murray, Ray and Troeth

Alert Digest presented

No. 1 of 2008 (*tabled 12 March 2008*)

Report presented

First report of 2008 (*tabled 12 March 2008*)

Selection of Bills—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/selectionbills_ctte/index.htm

Members

The Government Whip (*Chair*), the Opposition Whip, the Australian Democrats Whip, the Nationals Whip, the Australian Greens Whip, the Family First Party Whip, and Senators Adams, Ellison, Ludwig and Webber

Reports presented

Report no. 1 of 2008 (*presented 14 February 2008*)

Report no. 2 of 2008 (*presented 12 March 2008*)

Senators' Interests—Standing Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/interests_ctte/index.htm

Members

Senator Johnston (*Chair*), Senator Webber (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Adams, Allison, Forshaw, Humphries, Kirk and Lightfoot

Notifications of alterations of interests

Register of senators' interests, incorporating statements of registrable interests and notifications of alterations of interests of senators lodged between 19 June 2007 and 7 December 2007 (*presented to the Deputy President on 11 December 2007, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2008*)

State Government Financial Management—Select Committee

http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/sgfm_ctte/index.htm

(appointed 14 February 2008; reporting date varied 12 March 2008; reporting date: 18 June 2008)

Members

Senator Ian Macdonald (*Chair*), and Senators Bushby, Chapman, Forshaw and Polley

Participating members

Senators Bishop, Bob Brown, Carol Brown, Campbell, Crossin, Fielding, Hogg, Hurley, Hutchins, Kirk, Lundy, McEwen, McLucas, Marshall, Milne, Moore, Murray, Nettle, O'Brien, Ray, Siewert, Stephens, Sterle, Webber and Wortley

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/index.htm>

(appointed 14 February 2008)

Members

Mr KJ Thomson (*Chair*), Senator Sandy Macdonald (*Deputy Chair*), and Senators Bartlett, Birmingham, Bushby, Marshall, Sterle and Wortley and Mr Andrews, Mr Forrest, Ms Hall, Ms Neal, Ms Parke, Mr Simpkins, Mr Trevor and Ms Vamvakinou

Current inquiry

* All treaties tabled in the Senate

SENATE APPOINTMENTS TO STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

Advisory Council on Australian Archives

Senator Lundy (*appointed 12 March 2008, for a period of 3 years*).

Council of the National Library of Australia

Senator Trood (*appointed 13 June 2007, for a period of 3 years*).

Parliamentary Retiring Allowances Trust

Senators O'Brien and Watson (*appointed 12 March 2008 and 10 February 1994, respectively*).

HARRY EVANS

Clerk of the Senate

MINISTERIAL REPRESENTATION

Ministers	Representing
Senator the Honourable Christopher Evans (<u>Chris</u>) <i>Minister for Immigration and Citizenship</i> <i>Leader of the Government in the Senate</i>	Prime Minister Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Minister for Housing Minister for Sport
Senator the Honourable John Faulkner <i>Special Minister of State</i> <i>Cabinet Secretary</i> <i>Vice-President of the Executive Council</i>	Minister for Trade Minister for Foreign Affairs Minister for Defence Minister for Veterans' Affairs Minister for Defence Science and Personnel
Senator the Honourable Stephen Conroy <i>Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy</i> <i>Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate</i>	Treasurer Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Assistant Treasurer
Senator the Honourable Kim Carr <i>Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research</i>	Minister for Education Minister for Resources and Energy Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
Senator the Honourable Penelope Wong (<u>Penny</u>) <i>Minister for the Climate Change and Water</i>	Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations Minister for Social Inclusion Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts Minister for the Status of Women Minister for Employment Participation Minister for Youth
Senator the Honourable Joseph Ludwig (<u>Joe</u>) <i>Minister for Human Services</i> <i>Manager of Government Business in the Senate</i>	Minister for Health and Ageing Attorney-General Minister for Home Affairs Minister for Ageing
Senator the Honourable Nicholas Sherry (<u>Nick</u>) <i>Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law</i>	Minister for Finance and Deregulation Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Minister for Tourism Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
Parliamentary Secretaries	
Senator the Honourable Ursula Stephens <i>Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector</i> <i>Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Prime Minister for Social Inclusion</i>	
Senator the Honourable Jan McLucas <i>Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing</i>	

In those instances where Senators prefer to be known by other than their first name, the preferred name is underlined.

A GUIDE TO THE NOTICE PAPER

The *Notice Paper* is issued each sitting day and contains details of current business before the Senate. Its structure is based on four main types of business, as follows:

Matters of privilege take precedence over all other business and are listed at the beginning of the *Notice Paper* when they arise. They consist of notices of motion which the President has determined warrant such precedence and any orders relating to adjourned debates on such motions.

Business of the Senate has precedence over government and general business for the day on which it is listed. It includes disallowance motions, orders of the day for the presentation of committee reports, motions to refer matters to standing committees, motions for leave of absence for a senator and motions concerning the qualification of a senator.

Government business is business initiated by a minister including the consideration of government legislation. It takes precedence over general business except for a period of 2½ hours each week set aside on Thursdays for general business.

General business is all other business initiated by senators who are not ministers. It takes precedence over government business only as described above.

Within each of these categories, business consists of notices of motion and orders of the day:

Notices of motion are statements that senators intend to move particular motions on the days indicated. They are entered on the *Notice Paper* in the order given and may be given jointly by two or more senators. Notices of motion are usually considered before orders of the day.

Orders of the day are items of business which the Senate has ordered to be considered on particular days, usually arising from adjourned debates on matters (including legislation) or requirements to present committee reports.

On days other than Thursdays, the *Notice Paper* records all business of the Senate and government business items, but includes only new items of general business from the previous sitting day. On Thursdays, business relating to the consideration of government documents, committee reports and government responses to committee reports is also published.

Other sections in the *Notice Paper* are as follows:

Orders of the day relating to committee reports and government responses—adjourned debates on motions to consider or adopt committee reports and government responses. These orders may be considered for one hour on Thursdays at the conclusion of general business. New items appear on the following day's *Notice Paper*. The section is printed in full on Thursdays.

Orders of the day relating to government documents—adjourned debates on motions to take note of government documents. Such orders arise from consideration of the government documents presented on a particular day and include consideration of any documents not reached on the day. They are also listed for consideration for up to one hour on Thursdays during the consideration of general business. New items appear in the following day's *Notice Paper*. The section is printed in full on Thursdays.

Business for future consideration lists any notice of motion or order of the day to be considered on a specific day in the future; for example, a committee report ordered to be presented on a specific date, or a notice of motion given for a day other than the next day of sitting.

Bills referred to committees lists all bills or provisions of bills currently being considered by committees.

Questions on notice includes the text of new questions on notice and lists the numbers of unanswered questions.

Orders of the Senate includes orders of short-term duration such as orders for production of documents and those relating to days of sitting for a period of sittings.

Contingent notices of motion are statements of intention by senators that, contingent on a specified occurrence, they may move a motion, usually to suspend standing orders. They are grouped by subject.

Temporary chairs of committees is a daily list of all senators appointed to take the chair in the absence of the President or Deputy President.

Categories of committees is a daily list, categorised by type, of Senate and joint committees. Details of each committee appear in the committee section.

Committees lists all of Senate and joint committees, including membership, current inquiries and reports presented on or since the previous sitting day.

Senate appointments to statutory authorities lists the statutory authorities on which the Senate is represented and details of representation.

Ministerial representation lists Senate ministers and the portfolios they represent.

The ‘full’ Notice Paper

On the first day of the autumn and spring sittings a full *Notice Paper* is printed listing all outstanding business before the Senate, including the full text of all unresolved notices of motion and unanswered questions on notice. This edition is a complete reference to unresolved business from earlier in the session and is useful to keep. All business before the Senate is published daily in the full online version of the *Notice Paper*, available on ParlInfo and at: www.aph.gov.au/senate/work/notice/index.htm

Inquiries concerning the *Notice Paper* or business listed in it may be directed to the Senate Table Office on (02) 6277 3018.