

# **SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE**

**REPORT NO. 13 OF 2018**

*15 November 2018*

## **MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

Senator David Bushby (Government Whip, Chair)

Senator Brian Burston (United Australia Party Whip)

Senator Stirling Griff (Centre Alliance Whip)

Senator Peter Georgiou (Pauline Hanson's One Nation Whip)

Senator Derryn Hinch (Derryn Hinch's Justice Party Whip)

Senator Rachel Siewert (Australian Greens Whip)

Senator Anne Urquhart (Opposition Whip)

Senator John Williams (The Nationals Whip)

Senator the Hon Jacinta Collins

Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield

Senator Chris Ketter

Senator Dean Smith

Senator Tim Storer

Secretary: Rachel Callinan  
 6277 3020

## SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

### REPORT NO. 13 OF 2018

1. The committee met in private session on Wednesday, 14 November 2018 at 7.12 pm.
2. The committee recommends that—
  - (a) the *provisions* of the Migration Amendment (Strengthening the Character Test) Bill 2018 be *referred immediately* to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 18 January 2019 (see appendix 1 for a statement of reasons for referral).
3. The committee recommends that the following bills *not* be referred to committees:
  - Discrimination Free Schools Bill 2018
  - Fair Work Amendment (Restoring Penalty Rates) Bill 2018 [No. 2]
  - National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation Amendment Bill 2018.
4. The committee deferred consideration of the following bills to its next meeting:
  - Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment (Streamlining Regulation) Bill 2018
  - Australian Research Council Amendment (Ensuring Research Independence) Bill 2018
  - Customs Amendment (Peru-Australia Free Trade Agreement Implementation) Bill 2018
  - Customs Tariff Amendment (Peru-Australia Free Trade Agreement Implementation) Bill 2018
  - Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australia Fund Bill 2018
  - Social Services Legislation Amendment (Ending the Poverty Trap) Bill 2018
  - Treasury Laws Amendment (Strengthening Corporate and Financial Sector Penalties) Bill 2018.

(David Bushby)

**Chair**

15 November 2018

**SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE**  
**Proposal to refer a bill to a committee**

Name of bill:

- Migration Amendment (Strengthening the Character Test) Bill 2018

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

- To provide further scrutiny on the impact of this bill on the Australian community

Possible submissions or evidence from:

- Department of Home Affairs
- New Zealand High Commission and relevant parties
- Law Council of Australia and relevant legal representative bodies
- Refugee Council of Australia and relevant refugee representative bodies
- Other related organisations

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

- Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

Possible hearing date(s):

- To be determined by the committee

Possible reporting date:

- Friday, 18 January 2018 <sup>9</sup>



Senator Anne Urquhart

**SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE**  
**Proposal to refer a bill to a committee**

Name of bill: Migration Amendment (Strengthening the Character Test) Bill 2018

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration: This will lower an already low bar for refusing or cancelling the visas of non-citizens, for reasons such as sharing intimate images, verbally threatening someone, associating with members of a gang, or holding a rock in a threatening way.

Possible submissions or evidence from: Law Council of Australia, Human Rights Law Centre, Civil Liberties Australia, Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, Refugee Advice and Casework Service, Immigration and Advice and Rights Centre, and Refugee and Immigration Legal Service.

Committee to which bill is to be referred: Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

Possible hearing date(s): December 12-13, 2018

Possible reporting date: First sitting week of ~~January~~ January 2019

(signed)



Print name:

Rachel Siemerd