



**The Hon Michelle Rowland MP**

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**Attorney-General  
Federal Member for Greenway**

Reference: MS25-000672

Senator the Hon Sue Lines  
President of the Senate  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

[senator.lines@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.lines@aph.gov.au)

Dear President

I am writing to advise you that the Government provided its response to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee's report on the Oversight Legislation Amendment (Robodebt Royal Commission Response and Other Measures) Bill 2024 during debate in the Senate on 12 February 2025.

I have enclosed the addendum to the explanatory memorandum tabled by the Government in response to matters raised by the Committee and the relevant extract of the Hansard.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Rowland MP

11 / 8/2025

Enc. *Extract from Hansard – Senate – 12 February 2025*  
*Addendum to the Explanatory Memorandum – Oversight Legislation Amendment*  
*(Robodebt Royal Commission Response and Other Measures) Bill 2024*

Add "or (IAA)".

**The PRESIDENT:** The question is that Senator Thorpe's amendment and request for amendment on sheets 3250 and 3268 be agreed to.

The Senate divided. [19:18]

(The President—Senator Lines)

Ayes.....14

Noes.....23

Majority .....9

#### AYES

Allman-Payne, P. J.  
Hodgins-May, S.  
Pocock, B.  
Steele-John, J. A.  
Waters, L. J.

Cox, D.  
McKim, N. J. (Teller)  
Pocock, D. W.  
Thorpe, L. A.  
Whish-Wilson, P. S.

Faruqi, M.  
Payman, F.  
Shoebridge, D.  
Tyrrell, T. M.

#### NOES

Chisholm, A.  
Davey, P. M.  
Ghosh, V.  
Hume, J.  
McCarthy, M.  
Polley, H.  
Smith, M. F.  
Walsh, J. C.

Ciccone, R.  
Farrell, D. E.  
Green, N. L.  
Lines, S.  
O'Neill, D. M.  
Pratt, L. C.  
Sterle, G.  
Watt, M. P.

Darmanin, L.  
Gallagher, K. R.  
Grogan, K.  
McAllister, J. R.  
O'Sullivan, M. A. (Teller)  
Sheldon, A. V.  
Stewart, J. N. A.

Question negated.

#### Third Reading

**The PRESIDENT** (19:20): The question now is that the remaining stages of the bill be agreed to and the bill be now passed.

Question agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

#### Oversight Legislation Amendment (Robodebt Royal Commission Response and Other Measures) Bill 2024

#### Second Reading

**The PRESIDENT** (19:20): I will now deal with the Oversight Legislation Amendment (Robodebt Royal Commission Response and Other Measures) Bill 2024. I understand the minister has a document to table.

**Senator GALLAGHER** (Australian Capital Territory—Minister for the Public Service, Minister for Finance, Minister for Women, Manager of Government Business in the Senate and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (19:20): I table an addendum to the explanatory memorandum relating to the Oversight Legislation Amendment (Robodebt Royal Commission Response and Other Measures) Bill 2024. The addendum responds to matters raised by the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee.

**The PRESIDENT:** I will now deal with the second reading amendment circulated by the Australian Greens. The question is that the Australian Greens' amendment on sheet 3252 be agreed to.

*Australian Greens' circulated amendment—*

At the end of the motion, add ", but the Senate:

(a) notes that:

(i) Robodebt was the worst failure of public administration in Australian history, raising an estimated \$1.73 billion of illegitimate debts from over 430,000 vulnerable Australians,

(ii) there is widespread community outrage due to a lack of accountability and insufficient findings from completed investigations; and

(iii) the Robodebt scheme flourished because of a political and media culture that stigmatises income support recipients, and failures in public sector leadership and culture in key departments; and

(b) calls on the Albanese Government to:

(i) implement all 57 recommendations of the Robodebt Royal Commission in full to ensure that Robodebt can never happen again,

(ii) immediately release the confidential additional chapter of the Robodebt Royal Commission report,

(iii) provide the Parliament with an update regarding the status of any civil or criminal referrals made in connection with Robodebt,

(iv) reinstate the six-year limitation on debt recovery as a matter of urgency,

(v) abolish the punitive Work for the Dole and the Targeted Compliance Framework, that have propagated a culture of punishing income support recipients; and

(vi) ensure that the lessons for public sector leadership, management, culture and policy are learned by incorporating study of this failed chapter across public sector leadership education and development training".

The Senate divided. [19:22]

(The President—Senator Lines)

Ayes.....13

Noes.....24

Majority.....11

#### AYES

Allman-Payne, P. J.  
Hodgins-May, S.  
Pocock, B.  
Thorpe, L. A.  
Whish-Wilson, P. S.

Cox, D.  
McKim, N. J. (Teller)  
Shoebridge, D.  
Tyrrell, T. M.

Faruqi, M.  
Payman, F.  
Steele-John, J. A.  
Waters, L. J.

#### NOES

Chisholm, A.  
Davey, P. M.  
Ghosh, V.  
Hume, J.  
McCarthy, M.  
Polley, H.  
Smith, M. F.  
Urquhart, A. E.

Ciccone, R.  
Farrell, D. E.  
Green, N. L.  
Lines, S.  
O'Neill, D. M.  
Pratt, L. C.  
Sterle, G.  
Walsh, J. C.

Darmanin, L.  
Gallagher, K. R.  
Grogan, K.  
McAllister, J. R.  
O'Sullivan, M. A. (Teller)  
Sheldon, A. V.  
Stewart, J. N. A.  
Watt, M. P.

Question negated.

Original question agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

#### Third Reading

**The PRESIDENT** (19:23): The question now is that this bill be read a third time.

Question agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

#### Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Reform) Bill 2024

#### Second Reading

Consideration resumed of the motion:

That this bill be now read a second time.

**Senator HUME** (Victoria) (19:24): I rise to speak on the Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Reform) Bill 2024. This bill responds to this parliament's inquiry, conducted by the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, into the 2022 election. An inquiry into our electoral laws is conducted after every election, which is right and proper. These inquiries consider both the performance of the electoral system and its legislation following an

2022-2023-2024

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

SENATE

**OVERSIGHT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (ROBODEBT ROYAL COMMISSION  
RESPONSE AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2024**

ADDENDUM TO THE EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the  
Attorney-General, the Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP)

**OVERSIGHT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (ROBODEBT ROYAL COMMISSION  
RESPONSE AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2024**

1. The purpose of this addendum is to provide additional clarifying material to the Explanatory Memorandum for the Oversight Legislation Amendment (Robodebt Royal Commission Response and Other Measures) Bill 2024 (the Bill), following submissions made to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee (the Committee) as part of the Committee's consideration of the Bill.

**Item 4: After section 14**

*Subsections 14A(5) - (7)*

2. On page 18, omit paragraph 58, and replace with the following new paragraph:
  58. Whether provision of facilities and assistance is reasonable will turn on the specific circumstances of an investigation. However, it would generally require an agency provide the Ombudsman with a practicable method of accessing relevant records and documents remotely, such as remote log in details or a networked device.