



Senate Daily Summary

Monday, 27 February 2012

The Senate met at noon, at the request of all senators to postpone the meeting of the Senate, until 10.30 pm

Legislation

[Bills and related documents](#)

Bills considered

The following bills were introduced

- ❑ Access to Justice (Federal Jurisdiction) Amendment Bill 2011 [passed by the House of Representatives on 16 February 2012]
- ❑ Fairer Private Health Insurance Incentives Bill 2012 [passed by the House of Representatives on 15 February 2012]
Fairer Private Health Insurance Incentives (Medicare Levy Surcharge) Bill 2012 [passed by the House of Representatives on 15 February 2012]
Fairer Private Health Insurance Incentives (Medicare Levy Surcharge—Fringe Benefits) Bill 2012 [passed by the House of Representatives on 15 February 2012]
[a motion to suspend standing orders to enable consideration of a motion relating to consideration of the bills was debated but not agreed to – [first speaker](#)]
- ❑ National Health Amendment (Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement Initiatives) Bill 2012 [passed by the House of Representatives on 16 February 2012]
- ❑ Special Broadcasting Service Amendment (Natural Program Breaks and Disruptive Advertising) Bill 2012 [private senator's bill]
- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (2011 Measures No. 9) Bill 2011 [passed by the House of Representatives on 14 February 2012]

The following bills were debated

- ❑ Extradition and Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation Amendment Bill 2011—second reading debate commenced [[first speaker](#)]
- ❑ National Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2010—committee of the whole [continued](#)

The following bill was introduced, debated and passed

- ❑ Nuclear Terrorism Legislation Amendment Bill 2011 [passed by the House of Representatives on 9 February 2012] [[first speaker](#)] [The bill will now be assented to]

The following bill was exempted from the cut-off order [to enable consideration in this period of sittings – 7 February to 22 March 2012] and passed

- Members of Parliament (Life Gold Pass) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 [[first speaker](#)] [The bill will now be assented to]

The following bill was passed

- Intellectual Property Laws Amendment (Raising the Bar) Bill 2011 [2012] [[first speaker](#)] [The House of Representatives will now consider this bill]

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

Committees

[Scheduled public committee hearings](#)

[Committee reports](#)

Reports tabled

Reports on legislation

- Education Services for Overseas Students Legislation Amendment (Tuition Protection Service and Other Measures) Bill 2011 and 2 related bills—Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Legislation Committee [[report](#)]
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Protecting Australia's Water Resources) Bill 2011—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee [[report](#)]
- Fair Work Amendment (Textile, Clothing and Footwear Industry) Bill 2011 [2012]—Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Legislation Committee [[report](#)]
- Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee [[report](#)]
- Members of Parliament (Life Gold Pass) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012—Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee [[report](#)]
- Telecommunications Universal Service Management Agency Bill 2011 and 2 related bills—Environment and Communications Legislation Committee [[report](#)]

Other reports

- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee—Review of the Defence annual report 2009-10 [[report](#)]
- Public Works Joint Committee—1st report of 2012—Referrals made September to October 2011 [[report](#)]

Documents tabled

- Public Accounts and Audit Joint Statutory Committee—Executive minutes and responses to the committee recommendations in reports nos 417, 418, 422, 423 and 324

Government responses tabled

- Community Affairs References Committee—Consumer access to pharmaceutical benefits
- Education, Employment and Workplace Relations References Committee—The administration and purchasing of disability employment services in Australia

Meetings during the sitting of the Senate

The Senate authorised the following meetings to be held while the Senate is sitting:

- Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Legislation Committee—27 February 2012 from 1.50 pm—private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1)
- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee—27 February 2012 from 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm—public meeting—Australia’s overseas representation

Reporting date extended

The Senate extended the reporting date for the inquiry of the Education, Employment and Workplace Relations References Committee into higher education and skills training for agriculture and agribusiness to 8 June 2012.

Notices of motion

To hold meetings when the Senate is sitting

- Australia’s Immigration Detention Network Joint Select Committee—29 February 2012 from 5.30 pm—public meeting
- Cyber Safety Joint Select Committee—14 March 2012 from 4.15 pm—public meeting
- Electoral Matters Joint Committee—29 February 2012 from 9.30 am to 11.30 am—public meeting—Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Protecting Elector Participation) Bill 2012
- Gambling Reform Joint Select Committee—28 February 2012 from 4.00 pm—private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1), followed by an in camera hearing
- Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee—1 March 2012 from 4.00 pm—public meeting—Access to Justice (Federal Jurisdiction) Amendment Bill 2011
- Migration Joint Committee—14 March 2012 from 10.30 am—public meeting
- Treaties Joint Committee—28 February 2012 from 8.00 pm—private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1), followed by a private briefing

To extend reporting deadlines

- Community Affairs Legislation Committee—
 - Personally Controlled Electronic Health Records Bill 2011 and a related bill—to report by 13 March 2012
 - 2011-12 additional estimates—to report by 29 March 2012

- Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee–
 - Crimes Amendment (Fairness for Minors) Bill 2011–to report by 4 April 2012
 - Migration Amendment (Removal of Mandatory Minimum Penalties) Bill 2012–to report by 4 April 2012
 - Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010–to report by 6 June 2012

Membership

The Senate agreed to [various changes](#) in the membership of committees.

Documents

Delegated legislation

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

- [Clerk's documents](#) were tabled [legislative instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled, including Governor-General's Proclamations]

Orders for the production of documents

Orders with continuing effect

Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the Internet

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

Departmental and agency contracts published on the Internet

Letters of advice for [various agencies](#) were tabled [Letters of advice about certain contracts valued at \$100 000 or more entered into by departments and agencies are [required to be tabled](#) twice a year]

Departmental and agency appointments and vacancies

Letters of advice [various portfolios](#) were tabled [Lists of appointments made and existing vacancies are [required to be tabled](#) 7 days before the commencement of budget, supplementary budget and additional estimates hearings]

Departmental and agency grants

Letters of advice [various portfolios](#) were tabled [Lists of all grants approved are [required to be tabled](#) 7 days before the commencement of budget, supplementary budget and additional estimates hearings]

Notice of motion

The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown) gave a [notice of motion](#) to require the Minister representing the Prime Minister (Senator Evans) to table a report relating to the arrest and detention overseas of Mr Mamdouh Habib–no later than 13 March 2012.

Documents tabled

- [Government documents](#)
- Response to a Senate resolution about Transgender Day of Remembrance—from the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr Rudd) [resolution agreed to on [24 November 2011](#)]

Ministerial statements tabled

The Parliamentary Secretary for School Education and Workplace Relations (Senator Collins) tabled ministerial statements about—

- Afghanistan
- Indigenous Australians—Closing the gap, together with the Prime Minister's report 2012 [a motion to take note of the statement was debated and agreed to – [first speaker](#)]
- the HMAS *Success* commission of inquiry – Allegations of unacceptable behavior and the management thereof – Part three: Further recommendations, together with the report of the Commissioner
- the global economy
- the situation in Syria and Iran

Other business

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

Motions agreed to

- [Anniversary of the apology to the Stolen Generations](#)—moved by Senators Moore, Siewert and Humphries
- [Treatment of the national flags of Australia](#)—moved by Senator Williams

Matter of public importance discussed

- [Labor Government](#)—proposed by Senator Fifield [[first speaker](#)]

Notices of motion

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

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Online

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

It is issued by the Senate Table Office as a convenient summary of each day's proceedings in the Senate. For a complete account see the official record, the *Journals of the Senate*.

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Related resources

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

Contact details

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