

**Senate Standing Committee
for the
Scrutiny of Bills**



Alert Digest

No. 15 of 2003

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Senate Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills

Members of the Committee

Senator T Crossin (Chair)
Senator B Mason (Deputy Chairman)
Senator G Barnett
Senator D Johnston
Senator J McLucas
Senator A Murray

Terms of Reference

Extract from **Standing Order 24**

- (1) (a) At the commencement of each Parliament, a Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills shall be appointed to report, in respect of the clauses of bills introduced into the Senate, and in respect of Acts of the Parliament, whether such bills or Acts, by express words or otherwise:
- (i) trespass unduly on personal rights and liberties;
 - (ii) make rights, liberties or obligations unduly dependent upon insufficiently defined administrative powers;
 - (iii) make rights, liberties or obligations unduly dependent upon non-reviewable decisions;
 - (iv) inappropriately delegate legislative powers; or
 - (v) insufficiently subject the exercise of legislative power to parliamentary scrutiny.
- (b) The committee, for the purpose of reporting upon the clauses of a bill when the bill has been introduced into the Senate, may consider any proposed law or other document or information available to it, notwithstanding that such proposed law, document or information has not been presented to the Senate.

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- **The Committee has commented on these bills**

This Digest is circulated to all Honourable Senators.
Any Senator who wishes to draw matters to the attention of the Committee under its terms of reference is invited to do so.

Broadcasting Services Amendment (Media Ownership) Bill 2002 [No. 2]

[Introduced into the House of Representatives on 5 November 2003. Portfolio: Communications, Information Technology and the Arts]

The bill proposes to amend the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* to repeal provisions that restrict foreign ownership of commercial television and subscription television interests, and to allow the Australian Broadcasting Authority to:

- grant cross-media exemption certificates on application, provided certain editorial separation requirements and conditions are met;
- investigate complaints in relation to breaches of certain licence conditions; and
- require regional broadcasters to meet certain local news and information content standards.

The bill is the same as the bill previously passed by the House of Representatives in 2002 but also incorporates those amendments made by the Senate and agreed to by the House of Representatives in June 2003.

Retrospective application Proposed new section 43A

Proposed new section 43A of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*, to be inserted by item 1AA of Schedule 2, provides for a new licence condition for the renewal of regional aggregated commercial television broadcasting licences. The applicable date for the imposition of this new condition on defined licence areas in regional New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland is specified as 1 August 2003. The application of the changes proposed by the new section would therefore apply retrospectively from that date.

As a matter of practice the Committee draws attention to any bill which seeks to have retrospective impact and will comment adversely where such a bill has a detrimental effect on people. In this case, the Explanatory Memorandum does not indicate the reason for this retrospective application. The Committee

therefore **seeks the Minister's advice** as to why the date of 1 August 2003 was chosen for this purpose and whether any person would be adversely affected by this retrospectivity.

Pending the Minister's advice, the Committee draws Senators' attention to the provision, as it may be considered to trespass unduly on personal rights and liberties, in breach of principle 1(a)(i) of the Committee's terms of reference.

Parliamentary scrutiny Proposed new sections 43A and 43B

Both proposed new section 43A of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*, to be inserted by item 1AA of Schedule 2, and proposed new section 43B of that Act, to be inserted by item 1AB of Schedule 2, would permit the Australian Broadcasting Authority to impose conditions on the renewal of various commercial television broadcasting licences relating to the broadcasting of minimum levels of material of local content. The effect of the imposition of those conditions appears to be very similar to the Broadcasting Authority legislating for such minimum levels of local content, in that the conditions would lay down general principles to be observed by licensees in the conduct of their business. However, since those general principles are contained in conditions to the renewal of a licence, and not in a public document, they are not subject to Parliamentary scrutiny. The Committee **seeks the Minister's advice** on whether the exercise by the Broadcasting Authority of its power to determine these conditions ought to be subject to Parliamentary scrutiny.

Pending the Minister's advice, the Committee draws Senators' attention to the provisions, as they may be considered to insufficiently subject the exercise of legislative power to parliamentary scrutiny, in breach of principle 1(a)(v) of the Committee's terms of reference.

Building and Construction Industry Improvement Bill 2003

[Introduced into the House of Representatives on 6 November 2003. Portfolio: Employment and Workplace Relations]

Introduced with the Building and Construction Industry Improvement (Consequential and Transitional) Bill 2003, the bill establishes a new regime for the management of workplace relations matters in the building and construction industry. The bill:

- establishes the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner (ABC Commissioner) and the Federal Safety Commissioner;
- improves the current bargaining framework;
- makes all industrial action within constitutional limits, other than protected industrial action, unlawful;
- strengthens freedom of association provisions;
- enhances and clarifies the right of entry system and enhances the accountability requirements of registered organisations; and
- improves the compliance regime.

The bill also contains a regulation-making power.

Reversal of the onus of proof Clause 170

Clause 170 would reverse the usual onus of proof requiring a person or building association whose conduct is in question to prove that they did not carry out the conduct for a particular reason or with a particular intent. The Committee usually comments adversely on a bill which places the onus of proof on an accused person to disprove one or more of the elements of the offence with which he or she is charged. In this case, a person may have to disprove such elements based on an *allegation* that the conduct was or is being carried out for a particular reason or with a particular intent. The

Committee is concerned that this lessens the basic cause that can give rise to proceedings under clause 227 where it will be *presumed* that the conduct was or is being carried out for that reason or intent. The bill does not appear to provide for a reasonable defence in such instances. The Explanatory Memorandum correctly points out that the proceedings in which this onus would be reversed are civil proceedings, and not criminal ones. The relevant proceedings, however, are those referred to in clause 227, for the imposition of a civil penalty, which may be regarded as more similar to criminal proceedings than to civil ones. The Committee therefore **seeks the Minister's advice** as to the reason for this reversal of the onus of proof. The Committee also **seeks the Minister's advice** as to the reason for establishing that a person may have to disprove an allegation in proceedings under clause 227.

Pending the Minister's advice, the Committee draws Senators' attention to the provision, as it may be considered to trespass unduly on personal rights and liberties, in breach of principle 1(a)(i) of the Committee's terms of reference.

Abrogation of the privilege against self-incrimination

Subclause 231(1)

Subclause 231(1) would abrogate the privilege against self-incrimination for a person who is required to provide information under clause 230. At common law, people can decline to answer questions on the grounds that their replies might tend to incriminate them. Legislation which interferes with this common law entitlement trespasses on personal rights and liberties.

The Committee does not see this privilege as absolute, recognising that the public benefit in obtaining information may outweigh the harm to civil rights. One of the factors the Committee considers is the subsequent use that may be made of any incriminating disclosures. In this case, subclause 231(2) limits the circumstances in which information so provided is admissible in evidence in proceedings against that person. In general terms, the information cannot be admitted as evidence in criminal proceedings, other than proceedings in relation to the giving of false and misleading information, obstructing a Commonwealth public official or failure to comply with a notice by the ABC Commissioner to provide information or attend to answer questions. The

Committee accepts that the provisions strike a reasonable balance between the competing interests of obtaining information and protecting individuals' rights.

In the circumstances, the Committee makes no further comment on these provisions.

Building and Construction Industry Improvement (Consequential and Transitional) Bill 2003

[Introduced into the House of Representatives on 6 November 2003. Portfolio: Employment and Workplace Relations]

Introduced with the Building and Construction Industry Improvement (Consequential and Transitional) Bill 2003 to establish a new regime for the management of workplace relations matters in the building and construction industry, the bill provides for application, saving and transitional arrangements and makes consequential amendments to the *Workplace Relations Act 1996* and eight other Acts.

The bill also contains a regulation-making power.

The Committee has no comment on this bill.

Commonwealth Land at Point Nepean, Victoria Bill 2003

[Introduced into the House of Representatives on 3 November 2003 by Mr K. J. Thomson as a Private Member's bill.]

The bill amends the *Defence Act 1903* to prohibit the sale of defence land owned by the Commonwealth at Point Nepean, Victoria and to require that the land be transferred to the Government of Victoria subject to that government maintaining the land in perpetuity as a national park.

The Committee has no comment on this bill.

Kyoto Protocol Ratification Bill 2003 [No. 2]

[Introduced into the Senate on 30 October 2003 by Senators Brown and Lundy as a Private Senators' bill.]

The bill proposes to ratify the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The bill is identical to the bill previously introduced in the House of Representatives by Mr K Thomson on 26 May 2003.

The Committee has no comment on this bill.

Medical Indemnity Amendment Bill 2003

[Introduced into the House of Representatives on 6 November 2003. Portfolio: Health and Ageing]

Introduced with the Medical Indemnity (IBNR Indemnity) Contribution Amendment Bill 2003, the bill amends the *Medical Indemnity Act 2002* to:

- implement the Exceptional Claims Scheme which provides for the Commonwealth to assume liability for damages payable against a medical practitioner that exceeds the practitioner's insurance contract limit; and
- make changes to the administration of the medical indemnity contributions.

The bill also contains savings and transitional provisions, and a transitional regulation-making power.

Retrospective commencement Subclause 2(1), items 2, 4, 6 and 8

By virtue of items 2, 4, 6 and 8 in the table to subclause 2(1) of the bill, the amendments proposed in various items of Schedule 1 would commence at the same time as the Medical Indemnity (IBNR Indemnity) Contribution Amendment Bill 2003. By virtue of clause 2 of the latter bill, it would commence retrospectively on 1 July 2003. As a matter of practice the Committee draws attention to any bill which seeks to have retrospective impact and will comment adversely where such a bill has a detrimental effect on people. However, all of the amendments proposed to commence retrospectively are beneficial to members of the medical profession.

In the circumstances, the Committee makes no further comment on these provisions.

Medical Indemnity (IBNR Indemnity) Contribution Amendment Bill 2003

[Introduced into the House of Representatives on 6 November 2003. Portfolio: Health and Ageing]

Introduced with the Medical Indemnity Amendment Bill 2003, the bill amends the *Medical Indemnity (IBNR Indemnity) Contribution Amendment Act 2002* to give effect to the moratorium on IBNR contributions to be paid for the 2003-04 and part of the 2004-05 financial years.

Retrospective commencement Clause 2

By virtue of clause 2, the amendments proposed by items 1, 2, and 3 of Schedule 1 will commence retrospectively on 1 July 2003. As a matter of practice the Committee draws attention to any bill which seeks to have retrospective impact and will comment adversely where such a bill has a detrimental effect on people. However, all of the amendments proposed to commence retrospectively are beneficial to members of the medical profession.

In the circumstances, the Committee makes no further comment on these provisions.

Workplace Relations Amendment (Better Bargaining) Bill 2003

[Introduced into the House of Representatives on 6 November 2003. Portfolio: Employment and Workplace Relations]

The bill proposes to amend the *Workplace Relations Act 1996* to:

- ensure that industrial action cannot be taken from the time an agreement, or award made under subsection 170MX(3), comes into operation until the nominal expiry date of the agreement or award has passed;
- allow the suspension of a bargaining period for cooling-off and third party suspensions; and
- clarify certain matters relating to employer relationships, related corporations and the involvement of non-protected persons that may or may not be classed as protected industrial action.

The bill also contains application provisions.

The Committee has no comment on this bill.

Workplace Relations Amendment (Termination of Employment) Bill 2002 [No. 2]

[Introduced into the House of Representatives on 6 November 2003. Portfolio: Employment and Workplace Relations]

The bill proposes to amend the *Workplace Relations Act 1996* to:

- extend the operation of the federal unfair dismissal system by making greater use of the corporations power in section 51(xx) of the Constitution;
- improve the operation of the federal unfair dismissal laws as they impact on small business; and
- make other changes to the way the unfair dismissal laws operate.

The bill also contains application provisions.

The bill is identical to the bill which was passed by the House of Representatives on 15 May 2003, and rejected by the Senate on 11 August 2003.

The Committee has no comment on this bill.

PROVISIONS OF BILLS WHICH IMPOSE CRIMINAL SANCTIONS FOR A FAILURE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION

The Committee's *Eighth Report of 1998* dealt with the appropriate basis for penalty provisions for offences involving the giving or withholding of information. In that Report, the Committee recommended that the Attorney-General develop more detailed criteria to ensure that the penalties imposed for such offences were 'more consistent, more appropriate, and make greater use of a wider range of non-custodial penalties'. The Committee also recommended that such criteria be made available to Ministers, drafters and to the Parliament.

The Government responded to that Report on 14 December 1998. In that response, the Minister for Justice referred to the ongoing development of the Commonwealth *Criminal Code*, which would include rationalising penalty provisions for 'administration of justice offences'. The Minister undertook to provide further information when the review of penalty levels and applicable principles had taken place.

For information, the following Table sets out penalties for 'information-related' offences in the legislation covered in this *Digest*. The Committee notes that imprisonment is still prescribed as a penalty for some such offences.

TABLE

Bill/Act	Section/Subsection	Offence	Penalty
Building and Construction Improvement Bill 2003	Clause 230	Fail to provide information to a public authority	Imprisonment for 6 months

PARLIAMENTARY AMENDMENTS AND THE COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

AMENDMENTS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (3 to 7 November 2003)

Financial Services Reform Amendment Bill 2003: The House of Representatives amended this bill on 5 November 2003. The amendments raise no issues within the Committee's terms of reference.

Australian Protective Service Amendment Bill 2003: The House of Representatives amended this bill on 6 November 2003. Two amendments removed provisions that provided for safeguards against the requirement to comply with a request from an APS officer to provide personal information and against the information being used in criminal proceedings against that person. Another amendment removed a provision that prevented an Australian Protective Service Officer from stopping and searching a person and seizing goods if they suspected that person of committing an offence under the *Public Order (Protection of Persons and Property) Act 1971*. The remaining amendment raises no issues of concern within the Committee's terms of reference.

Powers of an Australian Protective Service Officer Paragraphs 18A(1)(a), 18B(1)(a) and subclause 18D(5)

The House of Representatives amended the bill to remove provisions that prohibit an APS officer from exercising power under proposed sections 18A, 18B and 18D of the legislation in relation to an offence against the *Public Order (Protection of Persons and Property) Act 1971*. The Supplementary Explanatory Memorandum tabled in support of the amendments advises that these provisions have been omitted to ensure that the powers in the proposed sections can be exercised in connection with offences under the above Act ensuring consistency with the arrest power under section 13 of the *Australian Protective Service Act 1987*. The Committee draws these amendments to the attention of the Senate as it considers the decision as to whether an APS officer should be able to exercise these powers in relation to offences under the Public Order (Protection of Persons and Property) Act is more preferably left to the Parliament.

Reasonable excuse Subclause 18A(4)

Subclause 18A(3) states that a person is not required to provide information where he or she has a reasonable excuse.

The House of Representatives amended the bill to remove subclause 18A(4) that permitted a person to establish as a reasonable excuse that he or she was participating in an industrial

dispute, in a genuine demonstration or protest or an organised assembly. The Supplementary Explanatory Memorandum tabled in support of the amendments advises that the provision undermines the effectiveness of the legislation because a person who is a potential security threat could use such gatherings as cover and as such APS officers responsible for security should be able to ask a person for their name and evidence of their identity in order to proactively assess whether any potential security threat exists. The Committee accepts that there is a need to protect airports, diplomatic and consular premises, Defence establishments and other Commonwealth buildings but the removal of this provision would appear to weaken the safeguards available to people who legitimately take part in protests or industrial disputes. It is not apparent from subclause 18A(3) whether participation in such activities would be accepted as a reasonable excuse for not complying with the Act. The Committee therefore **seeks the Minister's advice** on whether a person legitimately participating in an industrial dispute or a protest will now be required to provide personal information to an APS officer, and whether APS officers will be required to inform such people that they need not provide this information if they have a reasonable excuse.

Pending the Minister's advice, the Committee draws Senators' attention to the provision, as it may be considered to trespass unduly on personal rights and liberties, in breach of principle 1(a)(i) of the Committee's terms of reference.

Protection from self-incrimination in criminal proceedings Subclause 18A(5)

The House of Representatives amended the bill to remove subclause 18A(5) that provides that information obtained by an APS officer cannot be used in criminal proceedings against the person who provided the information. The Supplementary Explanatory Memorandum advises that this provision goes further than merely ensuring that the common law privilege against self-incrimination is available. Although the omission of this provision does not affect the ability of a person to claim the common law privilege against self-incrimination, the Committee notes that such provisions are usual in legislation (eg. section 72V of the *Child Support (Registration and Collection) Act 1988*, section 47 of the *Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003* and section 129 of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*). The removal of this provision also raises the question of whether the information gathered by the APS officer and any information derived from it may be used in related proceedings. The Explanatory Memorandum to the bill does not provide any information on the use to which the information may be put or how long it will be kept. The Committee therefore **seeks the Minister's advice** on these matters.

Pending the Minister's advice, the Committee draws Senator's attention to the provisions, as they may be considered to trespass unduly on personal rights and liberties, in breach of principle 1(a)(i) of the Committee's terms of reference.

AMENDMENTS IN THE SENATE

(27 to 30 October 2003)

Farm Household Support Amendment Bill 2003: The Senate amended this bill on 30 October 2003. The amendments raise no issues within the Committee's terms of reference.

Financial Sector Legislation Amendment Bill (No.2) 2002: The Senate amended this bill on 30 October 2003. The amendments raise no issues within the Committee's terms of reference.

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE SCRUTINY OF BILLS

INDEX OF BILLS COMMENTED ON AND MINISTERIAL RESPONSES SOUGHT/RECEIVED - 2003

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE SOUGHT RECEIVED		REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE		SOUGHT	RECEIVED	
Bills dealt with in 2002							
<i>Charter of the United Nations Amendment Act 2002</i>	15(4.12.02)	14.11.02	5.12.02	Foreign Affairs	5.12.02	20.5.03	5(18.6.03)
Communications Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2002	7(21.8.02)	27.6.02	13.5.03	Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	22.8.02	16.9.02	4(14.5.03)
<i>Crimes Legislation Amendment (People Smuggling, Firearms Trafficking and Other Measures) Act 2002</i>	16(11.12.02)	4.12.02	12.12.02	Justice and Customs	17.12.02	11.2.03	2(5.3.03)
<i>Criminal Code Amendment (Offences Against Australians) Act 2002</i>	15(4.12.02)	12.11.02	13.11.02	Attorney-General	5.12.02	3.2.03	1(5.2.03)
Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Roll Integrity and Other Measures) Bill 2002	3(20.3.02)	14.3.02		Special Minister of State	21.3.02	30.4.02	
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Invasive Species) Bill 2002	15(4.12.02)		19.11.02	Senator Bartlett	5.12.02	4.2.03	1(5.2.03)
Fuel Quality Standards (Renewable Content of Motor Vehicle Fuel) Amendment Bill 2002	13(13.11.02)	21.10.02	--	Mr Katter	14.11.02		DC

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE		REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE		SOUGHT	RECEIVED	
Health Insurance Amendment (Professional Services Review and Other Matters) Bill 2002	15(4.12.02)	27.6.02	11.11.02	Health and Ageing re Amendments	5.12.02	31.1.03	1(5.2.03)
Intellectual Property Laws Amendment Bill 2002	7(21.8.02)	27.6.02	16.6.03	Industry, Tourism and Resources	22.8.02	17.9.02	5(18.6.03)
<i>International Criminal Court Act 2002</i>	7(21.8.02)	25.6.02	26.6.02	Attorney-General	22.8.02	13.1.03	1(5.2.03)
<i>International Criminal Court (Consequential Amendments) Act 2002</i>	7(21.8.02)	25.6.02	26.6.02	Attorney-General	22.8.02	13.1.03	1(5.2.03)
Migration Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2002	3(20.3.02)	13.3.02	5.2.03	Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs	21.3.02	27.5.02	2(5.3.03)
<i>Quarantine Amendment Act 2002</i>	3(20.3.02)	14.3.02	21.3.02	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	21.3.02	24.1.03	1(5.2.03)
Superannuation Legislation (Commonwealth Employment) Repeal and Amendment Bill 2002	2(13.3.02)	21.2.02	19.6.02	Finance and Administration	14.3.02 20.6.02	16.5.02 20.12.02	5(19.6.02) 1(5.2.03)
Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 8) 2002 (new citation) Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 3) 2003	16(11.12.02)	5.12.02	15.9.03	Treasury	12.12.02	30.1.03	9(10.9.03)
<i>Taxation Laws Amendment (Medicare Levy and Medicare Levy Surcharge) Act 2002</i>	5(19.6.02)	14.5.02	19.6.02	Treasurer	20.6.02	24.12.02	1(5.2.03)

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE		REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE		SOUGHT	RECEIVED	
Bills introduced 2003							
A Better Future for Our Kids Bill 2003	6(18.6.03)	26.5.03		Ms Roxon MP	19.6.03		
Age Discrimination Bill 2003	8(13.8.03)	26.6.03		Attorney-General	14.8.03	17.9.03	
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2002	1(5.2.03)	12.12.02	3.3.03	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	6.2.03	24.2.03	2(5.3.03)
Australian National Training Authority Amendment Bill 2003	9(20.8.03)	14.8.03	10.9.03	Education, Science and Training	21.8.03	8.9.03	9(10.9.03)
Australian Protective Service Amendment Bill 2003	8(13.8.03)	15.10.03	26.6.03	Justice and Customs	14.8.03	9.9.03	9(10.9.03)
Aviation Transport Security Bill 2003	5(14.5.03)	27.3.03		Transport and Regional Services	15.5.03	20.6.03	
Civil Aviation Legislation Amendment Bill 2003	5(14.5.03)	27.3.03	11.8.03	Transport and Regional Services	15.5.03	6.6.03	7(13.8.03)
Civil Aviation Legislation Amendment (Mutual Recognition with New Zealand and Other Matters) Bill 2003	8(13.8.03)	25.6.03		Transport and Regional Services	14.8.03	29.10.03	
Communications Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003	8(13.8.03)	26.6.03	19.8.03	Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	14.8.03	19.8.03	8(20.8.03)
Communications Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 3) 2003	7(25.6.03)	19.6.03	21.8.03	Communications, Information Technology and the Arts	26.6.03	6.8.03	9(10.9.03)
Corporate Responsibility and Employment Security Bill 2003	10(10.9.03)	18.8.03		Hon S F Crean MP	11.9.03		

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE SOUGHT	RESPONSE RECEIVED	REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE				
Crimes (Overseas) Amendment Bill 2003	11(17.9.03)	11.09.03	18.9.03	Attorney-General	18.9.03	7.10.03	11(8.10.03)
Criminal Code Amendment (Hamas and Lashkar-e-Tayyiba) Bill 2003	14(7.11.03)	5.11.03	7.11.03	Attorney-General	7.11.03		
Criminal Code Amendment (Hezbollah External Terrorist Organisation) Bill 2003	6(18.6.03)	2.6.03		Hon S F Crean MP	19.6.03		
Criminal Code Amendment (Hizballah) Bill 2003	6(18.6.03)	29.5.03	16.6.03	Attorney-General	19.6.03	29.10.03	13(7.11.03)
Criminal Code Amendment (Terrorism) Bill 2002	1(5.2.03)	12.12.02	13.5.03	Attorney-General	6.2.03	7.5.03	4(14.5.03)
Customs Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2003	6(18.6.03)	15.5.03	16.6.03	Justice and Customs	19.6.03	24.6.03	6(25.6.03)
Dairy Industry Service Reform Bill 2003	2(5.3.03)	12.2.03	19.3.03	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	6.3.03	9.4.03	4(14.5.03)
Electoral Amendment (Political Honesty) Bill 2003	5(14.5.03)		27.3.03	Senator Murray		28.4.03	4(14.5.03)
Energy Grants (Credits) Scheme Bill 2003	2(5.3.03)	13.2.03	26.3.03	Treasurer	6.3.03	24.3.03	3(26.3.03)
Family and Community Services and Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (2003 Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2003	12(8.10.03)	18.9.03	8.10.03	Family and Community Services	9.10.03	14.10.03	12(15.10.03)
Family Law Amendment Bill 2003	2(5.3.03)	12.2.03	20.8.03	Attorney-General	6.3.03	20.7.03	8(20.8.03)
					21.8.03	11.9.03	10(17.9.03)

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE SOUGHT	RESPONSE RECEIVED	REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE				
Financial Services Reform Amendment Bill 2003	8(13.8.03)	26.6.03	24.11.03	Treasurer	14.8.03	12.9.03	14(26.11.03)
Higher Education Support (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003	12(8.10.03)	17.9.03	27.10.03	Education, Science and Training	9.10.03	21.11.03	14(26.11.03)
Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Bill 2003	3(19.3.03)		6.3.03	Senator Conroy	27.3.03		
Legislative Instruments Bill 2003	8(13.8.03)	26.6.03	9.9.03	Attorney-General	14.8.03	24.9.03	11(8.10.03)
Maritime Transport Security Bill 2003	12(8.10.03)	18.9.03	9.10.03	Transport and Regional Services	9.10.03	20.11.03	14(26.11.03)
Migration Legislation Amendment (Identification and Authentication) Bill 2003	9(20.8.03)	26.6.03	7.10.03	Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs	21.8.03		
National Animal Welfare Bill 2003	9(20.8.03)		11.8.03	Senator Bartlett	21.8.03	10.9.03	10(17.9.03)
National Transport Commission Bill 2003	6(18.6.03)	4.6.03	14.8.03	Transport and Regional Services	19.6.03	27.6.03	8(20.8.03)
Offshore Petroleum (Safety Levies) Bill 2003	12(8.10.03)	17.9.03	14.10.03	Industry, Tourism and Resources	9.10.03	14.10.03	12(15.10.03)
Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Legislation Amendment Bill 2003	6(18.6.03)	5.6.03	24.11.03	Environment and Heritage	19.6.03	4.8.03	14(26.11.03)
Petroleum (Timor Sea Treaty) Bill 2003	3(19.3.03)	5.3.03	6.3.03	Industry, Tourism and Resources	27.3.03	16.4.03	4(14.5.03)
Petroleum (Timor Sea Treaty) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003	3(19.3.03)	5.3.03	6.3.03	Industry, Tourism and Resources	27.3.03	16.4.03	4(14.5.03)

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE		REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE		SOUGHT	RECEIVED	
Private Health Insurance (Reinsurance Trust Fund Levy) Bill 2003	5(14.5.03)	26.3.03	23.6.03	Health and Ageing	15.5.03	18.6.03) 24.6.03)	6(25.6.03)
Student Assistance Amendment Bill 2003	8(13.8.03)	26.6.03	15.9.03	Education, Science and Training	14.8.03	15.9.03	10(17.9.03)
Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 4) 2003	2(5.3.03)	13.2.03	19.3.03	Treasurer	6.3.03	18.3.03	3(26.3.03)
Textbook Subsidy Bill 2003	7(25.6.03)		18.6.03	Senator Stott Despoja	26.6.03	25.7.03 9.10.03	7(13.8.03) 12(15.10.03)
Trade Practices Amendment (Public Liability Insurance) Bill 2003	10(10.9.03)	18.8.03		Mr A Griffin MP	11.9.03		