



THE SENATE  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

*SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE*

*REPORT NO. 2 of 2007*

*8 February 2007*

## **MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

Senator Jeannie Ferris (Government Whip, Chair)

Senator George Campbell (Opposition Whip)

Senator Andrew Bartlett (Australian Democrats Whip)

Senator Fiona Nash (The Nationals Whip)

Senator Rachel Siewert (The Australian Greens Whip)

Senator the Hon Chris Ellison

Senator Joe Ludwig

Senator Stephen Parry

Senator Ruth Webber

Secretary: Richard Pye  
 6277 3020

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

REPORT NO. 2 OF 2007

1. The committee met in private session on Thursday, 8 February 2007 at 11.47 am.
2. The committee resolved to recommend—That—
  - (a) the *provisions* of the Aged Care Amendment (Security and Protection) Bill 2007 be *referred immediately* to the Community Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 14 March 2007 (see appendix 1 for a statement of reasons for referral); and
  - (b) the *provisions* of the Tax Laws Amendment (2006 Measures No. 7) Bill 2006 be *referred immediately* to the Economics Committee for inquiry for report by 27 February 2007 (see appendix 2 for a statement of reasons for referral).

*The committee recommends accordingly.*

3. The committee deferred consideration of the following bill to its next meeting:
  - Family Law (Divorce Fees Validation) Bill 2007.

(Jeannie Ferris)

**Chair**

8 February 2007



THE SENATE  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

Proposal to refer a bill to a committee  
*upon its introduction into the House of Representatives*

Name of bill *Aged Care Amendment (Security and Protection) Bill 2007*

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration: *See attached.*

Possible submissions or evidence from:

Committee to which bill is to be referred:

*Community Affairs*

Possible hearing date(s):

Possible reporting date: *1 March 2007*

(signed)

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member

## STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR INTRODUCTION AND PASSAGE IN THE 2007 AUTUMN SITTINGS

### AGED CARE AMENDMENT (SECURITY AND PROTECTION) BILL

#### **Purpose of the Bill**

The bill amends the *Aged Care Act 1997* (the Act) to:

- implement new aged care complaints investigation arrangements, including a new Aged Care Commissioner;
- introduce the requirement for approved providers of residential aged care to report to the Department of Health and Ageing and the police allegations and incidents of sexual and serious physical assault; and
- introduce protection for approved providers and staff in residential aged care that report allegations and incidents of sexual and serious physical assault.

#### **Reasons for Urgency**

The amendments to the Act will give effect to the decision made by the government in July 2006 to implement new complaints investigation arrangements for Australian Government-subsidised aged care services, including the establishment of a new Aged Care Commissioner, as well as the introduction of compulsory reporting of alleged incidents of sexual and serious physical assault in residential aged care, and protection for approved providers and staff who report such incidents.

In the Minister for Ageing's announcement of 27 July 2006, he foreshadowed an implementation date of 1 April 2007 for the aged care complaints investigation arrangements, compulsory reporting and protection measures. In order to meet this implementation date, the bill needs to be introduced and passed in the 2007 Autumn sittings.



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Proposal to refer a bill to a committee

Name of bill Tax Laws Amendment (2006 Measures No 7) Bill 2006  
Specifically Schedule 2

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

- Schedule 2 makes substantial changes to the interest withholding tax exemption
- Proposed changes in schedule 2 may have an impact on the ability of Australian companies to raise finance
- Inadequate consultation with industry

Possible submissions or evidence from: Institute of Chartered Accountants

Committee to which bill is to be referred: Economics

Possible hearing date(s): Week of 19 February 2007

Possible reporting date: Week of 1 March 2007

(signed)

Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member