

2004

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOTICE PAPER

No. 2

THURSDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2004

*The House meets this day at 9 a.m.***GOVERNMENT BUSINESS****Notices**

- *1 **MR ABBOTT:** To present a Bill for an act to amend the law relating to private health insurance incentives, and for other purposes. (*Private Health Insurance Incentives Amendment Bill 2004*)
- *2 **MR ANDERSON:** To present a Bill for an Act to establish the National Water Commission, and for related purposes. (*National Water Commission Bill 2004*)
- *3 **MRS LEY:** To present a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to social security, veterans' entitlements and family assistance, and for related purposes. (*Family and Community Services and Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (2004 Election Commitments) Bill 2004*)
- *4 **MRS LEY:** To present a Bill for an Act to amend the *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999*, and for related purposes. (*Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Adjustment of Certain FTB Child Rates) Bill 2004*)

Orders of the day

- 1 **ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH:** Report of committee to be brought up (*from 17 November 2004—Mr Ripoll, in continuation*).

Notices—continued

- *5 **MR ABBOTT:** To move—That, unless otherwise ordered, the following amendment to the standing orders be made:
Omit Standing order 215 and substitute the following standing order
215 General purpose standing committees
 - (a) The following general purpose standing committees shall be appointed:
 - (i) Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs;
 - (ii) Standing Committee on Health and Ageing;
 - (iii) Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry;
 - (iv) Standing Committee on Communications, Information Technology and the Arts;
 - (v) Standing Committee on Economics, Finance and Public Administration;
 - (vi) Standing Committee on Education and Vocational Training;
 - (vii) Standing Committee on Employment, Workplace Relations and Workforce Participation;
 - (viii) Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage;
 - (ix) Standing Committee on Family and Human Services;
 - (x) Standing Committee on Industry and Resources;
 - (xi) Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs;
 - (xii) Standing Committee on Science and Innovation; and
 - (xiii) Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services.

* Notifications to which an asterisk (*) is prefixed appear for the first time

† Debate to be adjourned to a future day at the conclusion of the time allotted.

- (b) A committee appointed under paragraph (a) may inquire into and report on any matter referred to it by either the House or a Minister, including any pre-legislation proposal, bill, motion, petition, vote or expenditure, other financial matter, report or paper.
- (c) A committee may make any inquiry it wishes to make into annual reports of government departments and authorities and reports of the Auditor-General tabled in the House. The following qualifications shall apply to these inquiries:
 - (i) Reports shall stand referred to committees under a schedule tabled by the Speaker to record the areas of responsibility of each committee.
 - (ii) The Speaker shall determine any question about responsibility for a report or part of a report.
 - (iii) The period during which an inquiry into an annual report may be started by a committee shall end on the day the next annual report of the department or authority is presented to the House.
 - (iv) If a committee intends to inquire into all or part of a report of the Auditor-General, the committee must notify the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit of its intention, in writing.
- (d) Each committee appointed under paragraph (a) shall consist of 10 members: six government and four non-government Members. Each committee may supplement its membership by up to two members for a particular inquiry, with a maximum of one extra government and one extra non-government Member.

*6 **MR ABBOTT:** To move—

- (1) That in accordance with section 54 of the *Australian Crime Commission Act 2002*, matters relating to the powers and proceedings of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission shall be as follows:
 - (a) That the committee consist of 10 members, 3 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips, 2 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips or by any independent Member, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 1 Senator to be nominated by any minority group or groups or independent Senator or independent Senators.
 - (b) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
 - (c) That the committee elect a Government member as its chair.
 - (d) That the committee elect a deputy chair who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.
 - (e) That, in the event of an equality of voting, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
 - (f) That 3 members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
 - (g) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
 - (h) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only and at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting.
 - (i) That the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members of that subcommittee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall comprise 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
 - (j) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.
 - (k) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to call for witnesses to attend and for documents to be produced.
 - (l) That the committee or any subcommittee may conduct proceedings in any place it sees fit.

- (m) That a subcommittee have power to adjourn from time to time and to sit during any adjournment of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
 - (n) That the committee may report from time to time.
 - (o) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to consider and make use of the evidence and records of the Joint Committees on the National Crime Authority and the Australian Crime Commission appointed during previous Parliaments.
 - (p) That, in carrying out its duties, the committee or any subcommittee, ensure that the operational methods and results of investigations of law enforcement agencies, as far as possible, be protected from disclosure where that would be against the public interest.
 - (q) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
- (2) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.

*7 **MR ABBOTT:** To move—

- (1) That, in accordance with section 242 of the *Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001*, matters relating to the powers and proceedings of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services shall be as follows:
- (a) That the committee consist of 10 members, 3 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips, 2 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips or by any independent Member, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 1 Senator to be nominated by any minority groups or independent Senators.
 - (b) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
 - (c) That the committee elect a member nominated by the Government Whips or the Leader of the Government in the Senate as its chair.
 - (d) That the committee elect a deputy chair who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.
 - (e) That, in the event of the votes on a question before the committee being equally divided, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
 - (f) That 3 members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
 - (g) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
 - (h) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only, and at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of a subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting.
 - (i) That the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members of that subcommittee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall comprise 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
 - (j) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.
 - (k) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to call for witnesses to attend and for documents to be produced.
 - (l) That the committee or any subcommittee may conduct proceedings at any place it sees fit.
 - (m) That a subcommittee have power to adjourn from time to time and to sit during any adjournment of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
 - (n) That the committee may report from time to time.

- (o) That the committee have power to consider and make use of the evidence and records of the Joint Committees on Corporations and Financial Services and Corporations and Securities appointed during previous Parliaments.
- (p) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
- (2) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.

*8 **MR ABBOTT:** To move—

- (1) That a Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters be appointed to inquire into and report on such matters relating to electoral laws and practices and their administration as may be referred to it by either House of the Parliament or a Minister.
- (2) Annual reports of government departments and authorities tabled in the House shall stand referred to the committee for any inquiry the committee may wish to make. Reports shall stand referred to the committee in accordance with a schedule tabled by the Speaker to record the areas of responsibility of each committee, provided that:
 - (a) any question concerning responsibility for a report or a part of a report shall be determined by the Speaker; and
 - (b) the period during which an inquiry concerning an annual report may be commenced by a committee shall end on the day on which the next annual report of that Department or authority is presented to the House.
- (3) That the committee consist of 10 members, 3 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips, 2 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips or by any independent Member, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 1 Senator to be nominated by any minority group or groups or independent Senator or independent Senators.
- (4) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (5) That the members of the committee hold office as a joint standing committee until the House of Representatives is dissolved or expires by effluxion of time.
- (6) That the committee elect a Government member as its chair.
- (7) That the committee elect a deputy chair who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.
- (8) That, in the event of an equality of voting, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
- (9) That 3 members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
- (10) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
- (11) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only and at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting.
- (12) That the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members of that subcommittee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall comprise 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
- (13) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.
- (14) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to call for witnesses to attend and for documents to be produced.
- (15) That the committee or any subcommittee may conduct proceedings in any place it sees fit.

- (16) That a subcommittee have power to adjourn from time to time and to sit during any adjournment of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
 - (17) That the committee may report from time to time.
 - (18) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to consider and make use of:
 - (a) submissions lodged with the Clerk of the Senate in response to public advertisements placed in accordance with the resolution of the Senate of 26 November 1981 relating to a proposed Joint Select Committee on the Electoral System, and
 - (b) the evidence and records of the Joint Committees on Electoral Reform and Electoral Matters appointed during previous Parliaments.
 - (19) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
 - (20) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly..
- *9 **MR ABBOTT:** To move—
- (1) (a) That a Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade be appointed to consider and report on such matters relating to foreign affairs, defence and trade as may be referred to it by:
 - (i) either House of the Parliament;
 - (ii) the Minister for Foreign Affairs;
 - (iii) the Minister for Defence; or
 - (iv) the Minister for Trade.
 - (b) Annual reports of government departments and authorities tabled in the House shall stand referred to the committee for any inquiry the committee may wish to make. Reports shall stand referred to the committee in accordance with a schedule tabled by the Speaker to record the areas of responsibility of each committee, provided that:
 - (i) any question concerning responsibility for a report or a part of a report shall be determined by the Speaker; and
 - (ii) the period during which an inquiry concerning an annual report may be commenced by a committee shall end on the day on which the next annual report of that Department or authority is presented to the House.
 - (2) That the committee consist of 32 members, 12 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips, 8 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips or by any independent Member, 5 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 5 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 2 Senators to be nominated by any minority group or groups or independent Senator or independent Senators.
 - (3) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
 - (4) That the members of the committee hold office as a joint committee until the House of Representatives is dissolved or expires by effluxion of time.
 - (5) That the committee elect a Government member as its chair.
 - (6) That the committee elect a deputy chair who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.
 - (7) That in the event of an equality of voting, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
 - (8) That 6 members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
 - (9) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
 - (10) That, in addition to the members appointed pursuant to paragraph (9), the chair and deputy chair of the committee be ex officio members of each subcommittee appointed.

- (11) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only, and at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting.
- (12) That the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members of that subcommittee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall comprise 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
- (13) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.
- (14) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to call for witnesses to attend and for documents to be produced.
- (15) That the committee or any subcommittee may conduct proceedings at any place it sees fit.
- (16) That a subcommittee have power to adjourn from time to time and to sit during any adjournment of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- (17) That the committee may report from time to time.
- (18) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to consider and make use of the evidence and records of the Joint Committees on Foreign Affairs and Defence and Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade appointed during previous Parliaments.
- (19) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
- (20) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.

*10 **MR ABBOTT:** To move—

- (1) (a) That a Joint Standing Committee on Migration be appointed to inquire into and report upon:
 - (i) regulations made or proposed to be made under the *Migration Act 1958*;
 - (ii) proposed changes to the *Migration Act 1958* and any related acts; and
 - (iii) such other matters relating to migration as may be referred to it by the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.
- (b) Annual reports of government departments and authorities tabled in the House shall stand referred to the committee for any inquiry the committee may wish to make. Reports shall stand referred to the committee in accordance with a schedule tabled by the Speaker to record the areas of responsibility of each committee, provided that:
 - (i) any question concerning responsibility for a report or a part of a report shall be determined by the Speaker; and
 - (ii) the period during which an inquiry concerning an annual report may be commenced by a committee shall end on the day on which the next annual report of that Department or authority is presented to the House.
- (2) That the committee consist of 10 members, 3 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips, 3 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips or by any independent Member, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 1 Senator to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 1 Senator to be nominated by any minority group or groups or independent Senator or independent Senators.
- (3) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (4) That the members of the committee hold office as a joint standing committee until the House of Representatives is dissolved or expires by effluxion of time.
- (5) That the committee elect a Government member as its chair.
- (6) That the committee elect a deputy chair who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.

- (7) That, in the event of an equality of voting, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
 - (8) That 3 members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
 - (9) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
 - (10) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only and at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting.
 - (11) That the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members of that subcommittee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall comprise 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
 - (12) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the public proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.
 - (13) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to call for witnesses to attend and for documents to be produced.
 - (14) That the committee or any subcommittee may conduct proceedings at any place it sees fit.
 - (15) That the committee may report from time to time.
 - (16) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to consider and make use of the evidence and records of the Joint Committees on Migration Regulations and the Joint Standing Committees on Migration appointed in previous Parliaments.
 - (17) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
 - (18) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly
- *11 **MR ABBOTT:** To move—
- (1) That a Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories be appointed to inquire into and report on:
 - (a) matters coming within the terms of section 5 of the *Parliament Act 1974* as may be referred to it by:
 - (i) either House of the Parliament; or
 - (ii) the Minister responsible for administering the *Parliament Act 1974*; or
 - (iii) the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
 - (b) such other matters relating to the parliamentary zone as may be referred to it by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
 - (c) such amendments to the National Capital Plan as are referred to it by a Minister responsible for administering the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988*;
 - (d) such other matters relating to the National Capital as may be referred to it by:
 - (i) either House of the Parliament; or
 - (ii) the Minister responsible for administering the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988*; and
 - (e) such matters relating to Australia's territories as may be referred to it by:
 - (i) either House of the Parliament; or
 - (ii) the Minister responsible for the administration of the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands; the Territory of Christmas Island; the Coral Sea Islands Territory; the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands; the Australian Antarctic Territory, and the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands, and of Commonwealth responsibilities on Norfolk Island.
 - (2) Annual reports of government departments and authorities tabled in the House shall stand referred to the committee for any inquiry the committee may wish to make. Reports shall stand referred to the

committee in accordance with a schedule tabled by the Speaker to record the areas of responsibility of each committee, provided that:

- (a) any question concerning responsibility for a report or a part of a report shall be determined by the Speaker; and
 - (b) the period during which an inquiry concerning an annual report may be commenced by a committee shall end on the day on which the next annual report of that Department or authority is presented to the House.
- (3) That the committee consist of 12 members, the Deputy Speaker, 3 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips, 2 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips or by any independent Member, the Deputy President and Chairman of Committees, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 1 Senator to be nominated by any minority group or groups or independent Senator or independent Senators.
 - (4) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate.
 - (5) That the members of the committee hold office as a joint standing committee until the House of Representatives is dissolved or expires by effluxion of time.
 - (6) That the committee elect a Government member as its chair.
 - (7) That the committee elect a deputy chair who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.
 - (8) That, in the event of an equality of voting, the chair or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
 - (9) That 3 members of the committee (of whom one is the Deputy President or the Deputy Speaker when matters affecting the parliamentary zone are under consideration) constitute a quorum of the committee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
 - (10) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
 - (11) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only and at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting.
 - (12) That the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members of that subcommittee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall comprise 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
 - (13) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the public proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.
 - (14) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to call for witnesses to attend and for documents to be produced.
 - (15) That the committee or any subcommittee may conduct proceedings at any place it sees fit.
 - (16) That a subcommittee have power to adjourn from time to time and to sit during any adjournment of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
 - (17) That the committee may report from time to time.
 - (18) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to consider and make use of the evidence and records of the Joint Standing Committees on the National Capital and External Territories, the Joint Committees on the Australian Capital Territory, the Joint Standing Committees on the New Parliament House, the Joint Standing Committee on the Parliamentary Zone and the Joint Committee on the National Capital appointed during previous Parliaments and of the House of Representatives and Senate Standing Committees on Transport, Communications and Infrastructure when sitting as a joint committee on matters relating to the Australian Capital Territory.

- (19) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
- (20) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.

*12 **MR ABBOTT:** To move—

- (1) That, in accordance with section 205 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, matters relating to the powers and proceedings of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund shall be as follows:
 - (a) That the committee consist of 10 members, 3 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips, 2 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips or by any independent Member, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 1 Senator to be nominated by any minority groups or independent Senators.
 - (b) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
 - (c) That the committee elect a Government member as its chair.
 - (d) That the committee elect a deputy chair who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.
 - (e) That, in the event of the votes on a question before the committee being equally divided, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
 - (f) That 3 members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
 - (g) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
 - (h) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only, and at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of a subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting.
 - (i) That the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members of that subcommittee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall comprise 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
 - (j) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.
 - (k) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to call for witnesses to attend and for documents to be produced.
 - (l) That the committee have power to examine and report on such annual and related reports as may be referred to it by the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
 - (m) That the committee or any subcommittee may conduct proceedings at any place it sees fit.
 - (n) That a subcommittee have power to adjourn from time to time and to sit during any adjournment of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
 - (o) That the committee may report from time to time.
 - (p) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
- (2) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly

*13 **MR ABBOTT:** To move—

- (1) That a Joint Standing Committee on Treaties be appointed to inquire into and report upon:

- (a) matters arising from treaties and related National Interest Analyses and proposed treaty actions presented or deemed to be presented to the Parliament;
- (b) any question relating to a treaty or other international instrument, whether or not negotiated to completion, referred to the committee by:
 - (i) either House of the Parliament, or
 - (ii) a Minister; and
 - (c) such other matters as may be referred to the committee by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and on such conditions as the Minister may prescribe.
- (2) That the committee consist of 16 members, 6 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips, 3 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips or by any independent Member, 3 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 3 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 1 Senator to be nominated by any minority group or groups or independent Senator or independent Senators.
- (3) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (4) That the members of the committee hold office as a joint committee until the House of Representatives is dissolved or expires by effluxion of time.
- (5) That the committee elect a Government member as its chair.
- (6) That the committee elect a non-Government member as its deputy chair to act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.
- (7) That in the event of an equality of voting, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
- (8) That 3 members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
- (9) That the committee have power to appoint not more than 3 subcommittees each consisting of 3 or more of its members, and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
- (10) That, in addition to the members appointed pursuant to paragraph (9), the chair and deputy chair of the committee be ex officio members of each subcommittee appointed.
- (11) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only, and at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting.
- (12) That the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members of that subcommittee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include 1 Government member of either House and 1 non-Government member of either House.
- (13) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.
- (14) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to call for witnesses to attend and for documents to be produced.
- (15) That the committee or any subcommittee may conduct proceedings at any place it sees fit.
- (16) That a subcommittee have power to adjourn from time to time and to sit during any adjournment of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- (17) That the committee may report from time to time.
- (18) That the committee have power to consider and make use of the evidence and records of the Joint Standing Committees on Treaties appointed during previous Parliaments.
- (19) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.

- (20) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.

Orders of the day—*continued*

- *2 **SUPERANNUATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2004** (*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004—Mr McClelland*).
- *3 **HEALTH INSURANCE AMENDMENT (100% MEDICARE REBATE AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2004** (*Minister for Health and Ageing*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004—Mr McClelland*).
- *4 **AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION AMENDMENT BILL 2004** (*Attorney-General*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004—Mr McClelland*).
- *5 **CLASSIFICATION (PUBLICATIONS, FILMS AND COMPUTER GAMES) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 2004** (*Attorney-General*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004—Ms Roxon*).
- *6 **SEX DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT (TEACHING PROFESSION) BILL 2004** (*Attorney-General*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004—Ms Roxon*).
- *7 **SCHOOLS ASSISTANCE (LEARNING TOGETHER—ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH CHOICE AND OPPORTUNITY) BILL 2004** (*Minister for Education, Science and Training*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004—Mr McClelland*).
- *8 **STATES GRANTS (PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSISTANCE) LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2004** (*Minister for Education, Science and Training*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004—Mr McClelland*).
- *9 **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION (TARGETED ASSISTANCE) AMENDMENT BILL 2004** (*Minister for Education, Science and Training*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004—Mr McClelland*).
- *10 **HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 2004** (*Minister for Education, Science and Training*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004—Mr McClelland*).
- *11 **VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING FUNDING AMENDMENT BILL 2004** (*Minister for Vocational and Technical Education*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004—Mr McClelland*).
- *12 **AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 2004** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004—Mr McClelland*).
- *13 **TEXTILE, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT (POST-2005 SCHEME) BILL 2004** (*Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004—Mr S. F. Smith*).
- *14 **CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT (TEXTILE, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR POST-2005 ARRANGEMENTS) BILL 2004** (*Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004—Mr S. F. Smith*).
- *15 **AUSLINK WHITE PAPER—DOCUMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENT**: Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004*) on the motion of Mr Abbott—That the House take note of the document.
- *16 **QUARTERLY REPORT ON MOVEMENT CAP FOR SYDNEY AIRPORT—1 APRIL 2004 TO 30 JUNE 2004—DOCUMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENT**: Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004*) on the motion of Mr Abbott—That the House take note of the document.
- *17 **NATIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION—REPORT FOR 2003-2004—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENT**: Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004*) on the motion of Mr Abbott—That the House take note of the document.
- *18 **CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY AUTHORITY—CORPORATE PLAN 2004-2005 TO 2006-2007—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENT**: Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004*) on the motion of Mr Abbott—That the House take note of the document.
- *19 **STEVEDORING INDUSTRY FINANCE COMMITTEE—REPORT FOR 2003-2004—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENT**: Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004*) on the motion of Mr Abbott—That the House take note of the document.

*20 **AUSTRALIAN MARITIME SAFETY AUTHORITY—REPORT FOR 2003-2004—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENT:** Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004*) on the motion of Mr Abbott—That the House take note of the document.

21 **LEGISLATIVE INSTRUMENTS (TECHNICAL AMENDMENT) BILL 2004:** Second reading (*from 16 November 2004*).

Contingent notices of motion

Contingent on any bill being brought in and read a first time: Minister to move—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the second reading being made an order of the day for a later hour.

Contingent on any report relating to a bill being received from the Main Committee: Minister to move—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the remaining stages being passed without delay.

Contingent on any bill being agreed to at the conclusion of the consideration in detail stage: Minister to move—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the motion for the third reading being moved without delay.

Contingent on any message being received from the Senate transmitting any bill for concurrence: Minister to move—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the bill being passed through all its stages without delay.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Notice given for Thursday, 18 November 2004

*1 **MR A. D. H. SMITH:** To move—That this House:

- (1) notes the terrible, and mostly unavoidable, consequences of death and injury occurring on Australia's roads each year;
- (2) notes the importance of Australia's car and truck drivers and motor cycle riders remembering to drive and ride safely at all times, being mindful of their passengers' safety and the safety of other road users;
- (3) notes the Australian Government's plans, as announced in May 2003, for a compulsory national program of driver education for all new provisional licence holders that aims to reduce the number of young people killed and maimed on our roads;
- (4) notes the critical need for all levels of government and the broader automotive and related industries to work cooperatively with the objective of promoting safer driving and to partially fund driver education for new, mostly young, drivers; and
- (5) recognises the successes and ongoing work of community-based organisations, including schools, in their efforts to teach and promote safer driving and other key road safety messages. (*Notice given 17 November 2004.*)

Notices

1 **MS GEORGE:** To move—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges the alarming growth in the ranks of 'working poor' Australians;
- (2) notes that recent ABS data shows a disturbingly high level of financial pressure among the 'working poor';
- (3) notes that the majority of 'working poor' Australians are totally reliant on minimum Award wages;
- (4) acknowledges the majority of Award workers are women in part-time and casual jobs serving the needs of others in the hospitality, retail, health, childcare and community sectors; and
- (5) supports the system of annual wage increases to minimum Award rates as determined by the AIRC. (*Notice given 16 November 2004. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 29 November 2004.*)

2 **MRS IRWIN:** To move—That this House:

- (1) notes that 1,800 stateless Vietnamese people have been stranded in the Philippines since 1989 without residency status and are therefore ineligible to work or hold any rights of citizenship;

- (2) commends the Australian Government for granting humanitarian visas in the past four years to 68 stateless Vietnamese families comprising 260 people who have parents, children or siblings in Australia;
- (3) notes that a further 201 stateless Vietnamese families comprising 648 people with relatives in Australia remain in the Philippines;
- (4) notes that the United Kingdom and the United States of America have accepted over 300 people and have indicated a willingness to accept additional stateless Vietnamese people; and
- (5) calls on the Government to consider compassionately granting humanitarian visas to the remaining stateless Vietnamese families with relatives in Australia. (*Notice given 16 November 2004. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 29 November 2004.*)

3 MR PRICE: To move—

- (1) That a Standing Committee on Appropriations and Staffing be appointed to inquire into:
 - (a) proposals for the annual estimates and the additional estimates for the House of Representatives;
 - (b) proposals to vary the staff structure of the House of Representatives, and staffing and recruitment policies; and
 - (c) such other matters as are referred to it by the House;
- (2) That the committee shall:
 - (a) in relation to estimates—
 - (i) determine the amounts for inclusion in the parliamentary appropriation bills for the annual and the additional appropriations; and
 - (ii) report to the House upon its determinations prior to the consideration by the House of the relevant parliamentary appropriation bill; and
 - (b) in relation to staffing—
 - (i) make recommendations to the Speaker; and
 - (ii) report to the House on its determinations prior to the consideration by the House of the relevant parliamentary appropriation bill;
- (3) That the committee consist of the Speaker and 11 other members, 6 members to be nominated by the Chief Government Whip or Whips and 5 members to be nominated by the Chief Opposition Whip or Whips or any independent Member;
- (4) That the committee elect a Government member as its chair;
- (5) That the committee elect a deputy chairman who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chairman at that meeting;
- (6) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine;
- (7) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only, and at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting;
- (8) That the quorum of a subcommittee be a majority of the members of that subcommittee;
- (9) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the public proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum;
- (10) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to send for persons, papers and records;
- (11) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to move from place to place;
- (12) That a subcommittee have power to adjourn from time to time and to sit during any sittings or adjournment of the House;
- (13) That the committee have leave to report from time to time; and
- (14) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders. (*Notice given*

16 November 2004. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 29 November 2004.)

4 **MR PRICE:** To move—That this House:

- (1) refers to the Standing Committee on Procedure the draft Framework of Ethical Principles for Members and Senators and the draft Framework of Ethical Principles for Ministers and Presiding Officers dated 1995;
- (2) seeks advice from the Procedure Committee as to the continuing validity or otherwise of the drafts; and
- (3) requests the Procedure Committee to confer with the Procedure Committee of the Senate in its consideration of these matters. (*Notice given 16 November 2004. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 29 November 2004.*)

COMMITTEE AND DELEGATION REPORTS (standing orders 34, 39 and 40): Presentation and consideration of committee and delegation reports has precedence each Monday.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS (standing orders 34 and 35) has precedence from the conclusion of consideration of committee and delegation reports, being interrupted at 1.45 p.m. and then continuing for 1 hour after the presentation of petitions each Monday.

The **SELECTION COMMITTEE** is responsible for determining the order of precedence and allotting time for debate on consideration of committee and delegation reports and private Members' business. Any private Members' business not called on, or consideration of private Members' business or committee and delegation reports which has been interrupted and not re-accorded priority by the Selection Committee on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays, shall be removed from the Notice Paper (standing order 42).

QUESTIONS IN WRITING

On the first sitting day of each fortnight, a complete Notice Paper is published containing all unanswered questions. On subsequent days, only new questions for the sitting are included in the Notice Paper. The full text of all unanswered questions is available at:

www.aph.gov.au/house/info/notpaper/qons.pdf.

Questions unanswered

Nos 1-137.

18 November 2004

*138 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) Is it the case that since the 1963 Premiers' Conference it has been agreed by the Commonwealth and the States that State Governors are called on to administer the Commonwealth in order of their seniority of appointment to State office.

*139 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) Is it the case that on 20 May 2003 all State Governors were issued with new Dormant Commissions to Administer the Commonwealth to take into account changes in the Letters Patent made in May 2003.
- (2) Is it also the case that Dormant Commissions have not been issued to the two State Governors appointed since May 2003.
- (3) Has he decided not to advise the Queen to issue a Dormant Commission to the Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce, who was appointed on 29 July 2003; if so, why.

*140 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) What was the nature of the Governor-General's participation in the national counter-terrorism exercise known as Mercury 04.
- (2) Did the Governor-General's participation in the Mercury 04 exercise relate to procedures for calling-out of the Australian Defence Force.
- (3) Has the Governor-General participated in any other counter-terrorism or other emergency preparedness exercises; if so, what has been the nature of the Governor-General's involvement.

*141 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) Does the Governor-General receive copies of Cabinet submissions and Cabinet Minutes.
- (2) Are Cabinet submissions provided to the Governor-General prior to their consideration by Cabinet.
- (3) Are there any categories of Cabinet documents that are not routinely circulated to the Governor-General, for example, those relating to the office of the Governor-General.
- (4) Does the Governor-General regularly receive copies of papers prepared for or arising from meetings of the National Security Committee of Cabinet.

*142 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) Did His Excellency The Hon. Sir Guy Green receive copies of Cabinet Submissions and Cabinet Minutes during his service as Administrator of the Commonwealth.
- (2) Did Sir Guy Green receive copies of papers prepared for or arising from meetings of the National Security Committee of Cabinet.

*143 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—Will he provide a complete list of the organisations for which (a) the Governor-General, and (b) Her Excellency Mrs Jeffrey have agreed to serve as Patron or Patron-in-Chief.

*144 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) What guidelines or other arrangements are in place in relation to decisions to extend vice-regal patronage to organisations.

- (2) What criteria are applied in determining whether the Governor-General or Her Excellency Mrs Jeffrey agree to serve as patron of an organisation.
- (3) Does the Governor-General seek advice from him or his department before the Governor-General or Her Excellency Mrs Jeffrey agree or decline to serve as patron of charitable or other organisations.

*145 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) Did the Governor-General seek or receive advice from him, the Attorney-General, any other Minister, his department or the Attorney-General's Department before the Governor-General agreed to serve as Patron-in-Chief of the Constitutional Prize Program of the Constitution Education Fund – Australia (CEF-A).
- (2) Was the Governor-General informed, or otherwise made aware, of the CEF-A's close association and co-location with Australians for Constitutional Monarchy and that its Executive Director is Ms Kerry Jones.
- (3) Has he discussed with the Governor-General the potential for patronage of the CEF-A to involve the Governor-General and his office in debate on Australia's constitutional future, especially the question of an Australian Republic.

*146 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) For each financial year since 1996-1997, how many meetings of the Federal Executive Council were presided over by (a) the Governor-General, (b) an Administrator of the Commonwealth, and (c) the Vice-President of the Executive Council.
- (2) For each financial year since 1996-1997, how many meetings of the Federal Executive Council were attended by (a) him, (b) the Deputy Prime Minister, (c) the Leader of the Government in the Senate, and (d) the Vice-President of the Executive Council.

*147 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—For each financial year since 1996-1997, on how many occasions has he called at Government House or Admiralty House for (a) meetings of the Federal Executive Council, (b) other meetings with the Governor-General or Administrator excluding attendance at functions, and (c) to attend functions including luncheons, dinners and receptions etc.

*148 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) Is he aware that the Governor-General writes to the Queen only “once or twice a year” to inform her of developments in Australia as reported in the Governor-General's interview in the *Sunday Age* on 7 November 2004.
- (2) Have he and the Governor General discussed the frequency of correspondence required to ensure that the Queen is kept properly informed of developments in her Australian realm.

*149 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) Can he confirm that the Governor-General will visit China in 2005 as indicated in the Governor-General's interview in the *Sunday Herald-Sun* on 7 November 2004; if so, (a) when will the visit take place, (b) will it be a State Visit, (c) will the Governor-General be received by the Chinese President when he visits Beijing, and (d) will the Governor-General visit any other countries; if so, which countries.
- (2) Did the Governor-General consult with him, the Minister for Foreign Affairs or any other Minister or relevant Department about the Governor-General's public announcement of the visit to China.
- (3) Did the Australian Government consult with the Chinese Government concerning the Governor-General's announcement of the visit to China.
- (4) When will a formal announcement of the Governor-General's planned visit to China be made by (a) him, and (b) the Chinese Government.

*150 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) In respect of the Governor-General's interview reported in the *Sunday Herald-Sun* on 7 November 2004 in which the Governor-General referred to his “new role of ‘super diplomat’ representing Australian interests overseas”, can he explain Government's position on the Governor-General's role in the foreign relations of Australia.
- (2) Is it appropriate for the Governor-General, on the advice of the Prime Minister or relevant Ministers, to engage in substantive discussions of foreign policy and strategic issues with foreign Heads of State, Ministers or officials.
- (3) Does he contemplate that the Governor-General will engage in such exchanges while travelling overseas.

- *151 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—
- (1) Which countries have been visited by (a) Sir William Deane, (b) Dr Peter Hollingworth, and (c) Major-General Michael Jeffery in his capacity as Australian Governor-General.
 - (2) In respect of each visit, (a) when did it take place, and (b) what was its primary purpose.
- *152 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—
- (1) In respect of the Governor-General's position under Section 2 of the Constitution as "Her Majesty's representative in the Commonwealth" and the fact that the Governor-General cannot discharge his constitutional functions while outside Australia, is it necessary to seek formal approval from the Queen before the Governor-General travels overseas.
 - (2) In granting approval for overseas travel by the Government-General, is the Queen advised directly by the Prime Minister or is the advice conveyed to the Queen with the Prime Minister's approval by the Governor-General.
- *153 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—
- (1) Can he confirm that the Government has Continuity of Government plans to minimise the impact of a terrorist attack or other emergency on the Executive Government and to ensure an early return to normal government functioning.
 - (2) What funds or resources have been allocated to the development or enhancement of facilities outside Canberra which would allow the Governor-General or an Administrator of the Commonwealth, the Prime Minister and other Ministers and key public servants to carry out government decision making and communicate with the Australian public in the aftermath of a large-scale attack on the Commonwealth Parliament.
- *154 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—Has the Governor-General been briefed on his role or that of any person serving as Administrator of the Commonwealth in the event that a Continuity of Government plan is activated.
- *155 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—
- (1) Is he aware of the first Report of the Continuity of Government Commission in the United States which was sponsored by the American Enterprise Institute and Brookings Institution and funded by the Carnegie, Hewlett Packard, and MacArthur foundations.
 - (2) Is he aware of the Commission's observation that within the US federal system of government, the Congress is the institution least able to reconstitute itself after a catastrophic attack.
 - (3) Has his department considered any of the issues discussed in the first Report of the US Continuity of Government Commission, for example, the potential for mass vacancies in the Parliament or large numbers of incapacitated Members or Senators leaving the Parliament unable to function for many months thus leaving a vacuum in constitutional legislative authority; if so, does the Government intend to take any measures to address these issues in the Australian context.
 - (4) Can he assure the House that any Continuity of Government plans developed by the Commonwealth Government give full weight to the need to protect and, if necessary, re-locate Members of Parliament as well as Members of the Executive.
- *156 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—Is any person or persons currently appointed under section 126 of the Constitution and in accordance with paragraph VI of the Letters Patent dated 21 August 1984 to serve as a deputy or deputies to the Governor-General; if so, when were the appointments made and what are the terms of the instruments of appointment.
- *157 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—What sum has been provided for facilities, accommodation, staff, travel arrangements etc. for the former Governor-General, Dr Peter Hollingworth, since his resignation as Governor-General on 28 May 2003.
- *158 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Treasurer—
- (1) Can he confirm that the Commonwealth Government has made donations to the Constitution Education Fund – Australia (CEF-A) – ABN: 76 750 439 829 an allowable tax deduction; if so, when and by whom was the decision made and announced.
 - (2) Were representations made to (a) him, (b) the then Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer, Senator Helen Coonan, (c) his department, and (d) the Australian Taxation Office about making donations to the CEF-A an allowable tax deduction; if so, when and by whom were the representations made.
 - (3) Is he aware that the CEF-A is collocated with and controlled by leading members of Australians for a Constitutional Monarchy with Ms Kerry Jones serving as the CEF-A's Executive Director.

- *159 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Health and Ageing—
- (1) What sum did the Government spend on its Strengthening Medicare advertising program prior to the Federal Election (a) in total on all media, and (b) in Sydney on the electronic and print media.
 - (2) What sum was spent on this advertising campaign in the electoral division of Lowe and what are the details.
 - (3) Is he aware that during the last week of the 2004 Federal election campaign in the electoral division of Lowe the Liberal Party distributed a DL-sized information card titled MEDICARE in which the Liberal candidate claimed that “only the Liberals have improved and strengthened Medicare by increasing the rate of bulk-billing to 100%”.
 - (4) What action is he taking to correct this misinformation and to inform the constituents of the electoral division of Lowe that Medicare bulk-billing rates have decreased under the Howard Government from approximately 80% to 70% nationally and that in the electorate of Lowe the rate of bulk-billing is approximately 91%.
- *160 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—
- (1) Has the Minister read the article about Australia’s media ownership laws in *The Sydney Morning Herald* on 18 October 2004 titled “ACCC dampens media talk”.
 - (2) In respect of the report that (a) any easing is seen as opening the way for News Corp to buy the Ten or Seven television networks and PBL to buy the publisher of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, John Fairfax and Sons, and (b) the Minister’s plans would promote diversity by providing room for more players, including foreign companies, in Australia, can the Minister explain how the Government’s policy will stop further concentration of media ownership in Australia; if not, why not.
- *161 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—
- (1) Has the Minister read the article about the Government’s proposed media ownership changes in *The Age* on 18 October 2004 titled “ACCC warns on media buy-out”.
 - (2) Can the Minister explain how the proposed changes to Australia’s media ownership laws would not lead to an ‘open slather’ for media firms.
- *162 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—
- (1) Has the Minister read the article titled “Nats threaten to block quick sale of Telstra” in *The Canberra Times* on 18 October 2004.
 - (2) Can the Minister confirm the report that the Government would move on its policy of loosening cross-media ownership controls and that the Minister acknowledged that this would lead to more foreign ownership of Australian media companies.
 - (3) Can the Minister explain how the proposed changes to Australia’s media ownership and foreign ownership laws would ensure that, for example, Mr Packer’s and Mr Murdoch’s media companies would not be able to purchase more Australian newspapers, radio stations and television networks and at the same time own and control their existing media interests; if not, why not.
- *163 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—
- (1) Would the Minister provide an up-date on the Government’s agenda in respect of the full sale of Telstra.
 - (2) Are there barriers to the full sale of Telstra; if so, what are the details.
- *164 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—
- (1) Has the Minister read the draft report on the Productivity Commission’s Review of National Competition Policy Reforms.
 - (2) Will the Government act on the advice of the Commission to the effect that, unless the reviews currently in progress provide a good cause to the contrary, the Government should amend its broadcasting policy to remove the restrictions on the number of commercial free-to-air TV stations, multi-channelling and datacasting as a pre-condition for liberalisation of cross-media ownership rules; if not, why not.

- *165 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—Can the Minister explain how lifting the moratorium on free-to-air television licences would provide greater competition to the existing media companies in the provision of news and information to the public.
- *166 **MR BEAZLEY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) What conditions has the Government placed on the funds it has committed to the Peel Deviation which is planned to relieve traffic pressure in the city of Mandurah and ease communication between the Perth metropolitan area and the south-west.
 - (2) Is it the case that the funds will not be released unless the Government of Western Australia complies with Commonwealth industrial relations laws; if so, what are the details of the requirement and when was the State government informed.
 - (3) Were the conditions announced at the time the Commonwealth Government released its offer during the recent election campaign.

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives

SPEAKER'S PANEL

Mr Adams, Mr Baldwin, Mrs B. K. Bishop, Mr Beazley, Mr Hatton, Mr Lindsay, Mr Quick, Mr Scott, Mr Somlyay, Mr Wilkie.

COMMITTEES

Unless otherwise shown, appointed for life of 41st Parliament

Standing

Pursuant to standing orders

SELECTION: Mr Barresi, Mr Bartlett, Mr Causley, Mr Danby, Mr Forrest, Mrs Gash, Ms Hall, Mr McArthur, Mr Neville, Mr Price, Mr Wilkie.

APPOINTMENTS TO STATUTORY BODIES

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES: Mr Somlyay (*appointed 15 May 2002, for a period of 3 years*).

COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA: Mr M. J. Ferguson (*elected 21 August 2002, for a period of 3 years*).

PARLIAMENTARY RETIRING ALLOWANCES TRUST: Mr Bartlett (*appointed 11 August 2004*).