

2004

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## NOTICE PAPER

No. 5

WEDNESDAY, 1 DECEMBER 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 legislation relating to private health insurance, and for related purposes. (*National Health Amendment (Prostheses) Bill 2004*)
- \*2 **MR ABBOTT:** To move—That the Clerk be authorised to correct clerical errors or inconsistencies in wording in the standing orders, but not so as to cause a change to the meaning of any standing order.

**Orders of the day**

- 1 **HEALTH INSURANCE AMENDMENT (100% MEDICARE REBATE AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2004** (*Minister for Health and Ageing*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 30 November 2004—Mr Hartsuyker, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Abbott—That the Bill be now read a second time—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Ms Gillard, viz.—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “while not declining to give the Bill a second reading, this Parliament condemns the Government for:*
  - (1) doing nothing while out-of-pocket costs to see a general practitioner have soared from a little over \$8 to a national average of \$15.37 and failing to attach conditions to 100% Medicare aimed at reducing out-of-pocket costs;
  - (2) causing bulk billing rates to fall from 80% under Labor to a little over 70% and failing to attach conditions to 100% Medicare aimed at bolstering bulk billing rates;
  - (3) failing to ensure that any of the \$1.7 billion spent will be passed on to patients; and
  - (4) continuing its undermining of Medicare as Australia’s universal public health insurance system”.

**Notices—continued**

- \*3 **DR STONE:** To present a Bill for an Act to amend Commonwealth financial management legislation and other financial and reporting provisions, and for related purposes. (*Financial Framework Legislation Amendment Bill 2004*)
- \*4 **MR HUNT:** To present a Bill for an Act to provide for water efficiency labelling and the making of water efficiency standards, and for related purposes. (*Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Bill 2004*)
- \*5 **MR LLOYD:** To move—That, in accordance with section 5 of the *Parliament Act 1974*, the House approves the following proposal for works in the Parliamentary Zone which was presented to the House on 30 November 2004 namely: Replacement and extension of cooling towers at Old Parliament House.

**Orders of the day—continued**

- 2 **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*).

\* 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.

- 3 **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*).
- 4 **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION (TARGETED ASSISTANCE) AMENDMENT BILL 2004** (*Minister for Education, Science and Training*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004—Mr McClelland*).
- 5 **AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION AMENDMENT BILL 2004** (*Attorney-General*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004—Mr McClelland*).
- 6 **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*).
- 7 **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*).
- 8 **TAX LAWS AMENDMENT (SMALL BUSINESS MEASURES) BILL 2004** (*Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 18 November 2004—Mr Bevis*).
- 9 **ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH**: Report of committee to be brought up (*from 29 November 2004—Dr Southcott, in continuation*).
- 10 **TAX LAWS AMENDMENT (SUPERANNUATION REPORTING) BILL 2004** (*Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 18 November 2004—Mr Bevis*).
- 11 **TAX LAWS AMENDMENT (RETIREMENT VILLAGES) BILL 2004** (*Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 18 November 2004—Mr Bevis*).
- 12 **PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE INCENTIVES AMENDMENT BILL 2004** (*Minister for Health and Ageing*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 18 November 2004—Mr Bevis*).
- 13 **NEW INTERNATIONAL TAX ARRANGEMENTS (MANAGED FUNDS AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2004** (*Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 18 November 2004—Mr Bevis*).
- 14 **TAX LAWS AMENDMENT (2004 MEASURES NO. 6) BILL 2004** (*Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 18 November 2004—<Member's Name>*).
- 15 **FAMILY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (ADJUSTMENT OF CERTAIN FTB CHILD RATES) BILL 2004** (*Parliamentary Secretary—Children and Youth Affairs*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 18 November 2004—Mr Bevis*).
- 16 **SEX DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT (TEACHING PROFESSION) BILL 2004** (*Attorney-General*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004—Ms Roxon*).
- \*17 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS (INTERCEPTION) AMENDMENT (STORED COMMUNICATIONS) BILL 2004** (*from Senate*): Second reading (*from 30 November 2004*).
- \*18 **FISHERIES (VALIDATION OF PLANS OF MANAGEMENT) BILL 2004** (*from Senate*): Second reading (*from 30 November 2004*).
- \*19 **FAMILY LAW AMENDMENT (ANNUITIES) BILL 2004** (*from Senate*): Second reading (*from 30 November 2004*).
- 20 **PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON CORPORATIONS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**: Consideration of Senate's message No. 4. (*from 29 November 2004*).
- 21 **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.
- 22 **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.
- 23 **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.
- 24 **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.

- 25 **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.
- 26 **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.
- 27 **LEGISLATIVE INSTRUMENTS (TECHNICAL AMENDMENT) BILL 2004:** Second reading (*from 16 November 2004*).

### Bill to be reported from the Main Committee

- \*28 **VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING FUNDING AMENDMENT BILL 2004:** To be reported without amendment (*from 30 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.

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## BUSINESS ACCORDED PRIORITY FOR MONDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2004, PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 222

### COMMITTEE AND DELEGATION REPORTS

#### Presentation and statements

- \*1 **PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO UKRAINE AND BULGARIA, 28 JUNE TO 9 JULY 2004:** Report. (*Statements to conclude by 12.40 p.m.*)
- \*2 **PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND FRANCE, APRIL-MAY 2004:** Report. (*Statements to conclude by 12.45 p.m.*)

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

#### 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. Time allowed—30 minutes.*)
- †2 **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. Time allowed—remaining private Members' business time prior to 1.45 p.m.*)

†3 **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. Time allowed—30 minutes.*)

†4 **MR RANDALL:** To move—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges the profound impact autism has on Australian families and the challenges they face in finding sufficient educational, developmental and respite services to help children and their carers with this life long disability;
- (2) notes that the funding of programs by the States to provide vital support to children with autism is vastly inadequate and causing unnecessary hardship and concern for their families; and
- (3) accepts that while the States have primary responsibility for the provision of disability support services, the Federal Government should play an active leadership role in what is a nationwide issue that affects 1 in 1,000 children born in Australia. (*Notice given 29 November 2004. Time allowed—remaining private Members' business time.*)

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### PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—*continued*

#### Notice given for Wednesday, 1 December 2004

\*1 **MR BAIRD:** To move—That this House:

- (1) notes with concern;
  - (a) the ongoing humanitarian and human rights crisis in the Darfur region of Western Sudan; and
  - (b) the decimation of this area and the south of the country by Janjaweed and the ongoing civil war;
- (2) commends the Government for its:
  - (a) recent commitment to provide a further \$12 million in aid to the region in addition to the \$8 million committed in May and June of this year; and
  - (b) continued support for the establishment of a United Nations intervention in the area to ensure the delivery of aid; and
- (3) urges the United Nations to emphasise to the al-Bashir Government the importance of intervention to the safety of Darfuris and the provision of assistance throughout the country. (*Notice given 30 November 2004.*)

**Notices—continued****1 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 7 sitting Mondays after 6 December 2004.*)

**2 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 7 sitting Mondays after 6 December 2004.*)

3 **MR L. FERGUSON:** To move—That this House:

- (1) calls on the United Nations Security Council to immediately consider and take appropriate actions to respond to the growing threats posed to the Southeast Asia region by conditions in Burma;
- (2) supports actions implementing the result of 1990 elections in Burma and to support the Committee Representing the People's Parliament for the restoration of Democracy in Burma; and
- (3) records its strong concern about the continued detention of Aung San Suu Kyi and 2000 political prisoners and calls for their immediate and unconditional release. (*Notice given 29 November 2004. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 6 December 2004.*)

4 **MR B. P. O'CONNOR:** To move—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges 1 December 2004 as World AIDS Day;
- (2) acknowledges that the primary objective of World AIDS Day 2004 is to further enable women and girls to take a primary role in changing the underlying cultural, social and economic barriers which make women more vulnerable to infection;
- (3) acknowledges that women have a central role in educating their families and their wider communities about HIV/AIDS prevention, and in supporting those with the disease; and
- (4) recognises that women and girls are biologically, economically and socially vulnerable to HIV infection and AIDS, and that violence or economic dependence disproportionately increases their chances of contracting the virus. (*Notice given 29 November 2004. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 6 December 2004.*)

5 **MR JOHNSON:** To move—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges the importance and value of free trade agreements in strengthening bilateral relations between countries and producing international trade benefits;
- (2) recognises the enormous opportunities for Australia in furthering trade arrangements with the world's fastest growing economy, China; and
- (3) supports the Government's Australia-China Free Trade Agreement Joint Feasibility Study currently underway into the viability of a free trade agreement between Australia and China. (*Notice given 29 November 2004. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 6 December 2004.*)

6 **MR LINDSAY:** To move—That this House:

- (1) recognises that:
  - (a) passive welfare payments to Aboriginal communities, asking nothing in return from the recipient, have denied them the pride they deserve and the opportunity to shape their own destiny;
  - (b) education is the key to change, and that childhood intervention to improve education will boost employment opportunities and head off longer-term problems; and
  - (c) the leadership capacity of individuals in local communities must be fostered, and that we should support those Aboriginal leaders who want to stand up and 'tell it like it is', rather than dealing with elected or appointed intermediaries who will not be accountable;
- (2) condemns the violence and unlawful destruction of property in Aboriginal communities this year, which puts the lives of police and others at risk; and
- (3) calls on Aboriginal communities to show the leadership they need to move forward into a more successful future. (*Notice given 29 November 2004. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 6 December 2004.*)

7 **MR SERCOMBE:** To move—That this House:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) international observers, including the International Election Monitoring Mission of the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), have reported that the recent election in Ukraine has fallen short of international standards;
  - (b) free elections are an essential component of the democratic process which reflects the will of the Ukrainian people;
  - (c) there is a widespread perception in the world community that the conduct of the elections in Ukraine has not achieved democratic norms;

- (d) the most blatant and widespread abuses of the election process in Ukraine are reported to have involved the manipulation of absentee votes and the uneven and biased access to the government-owned media; and
  - (e) a resolution to the disputed election results can only be achieved through a new election which is conducted in a transparent manner that meets international standards;
- (2) calls on the Government of Ukraine to:
- (a) ensure the safety and welfare of all its citizens taking part in peaceful demonstrations that exercise their democratic rights; and
  - (b) hold a new presidential election based on democratic principles, which:
    - (i) allows both presidential candidates equal and unbiased access to the mass media of Ukraine in the period leading up to the new election date; and
    - (ii) ensures that international observers participate at all levels of the election process to achieve a result that is acceptable to all parties;
- (3) requests the Speaker of the House of Representatives to transmit this resolution to the outgoing President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma, the Parliament of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Ambassador to Australia; and
- (4) urges the Australian Government to make further representations to the above effect. (*Notice given 29 November 2004. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 6 December 2004.*)
- 8 **MR NEVILLE:** To move—That this House:
- (1) recognises the role of parents raising profoundly disabled children;
  - (2) acknowledges the challenges faced by these parents in respect of caring, respite and funding of special equipment and services;
  - (3) calls for a comprehensive re-assessment of the eligibility of parents (generally, though not exclusively, the mother) to a Carer’s Allowance or Payment according to the level of disability and dependence; and
  - (4) requests an examination of respite services and medical requisites available to parents and their disabled charges. (*Notice given 29 November 2004. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 6 December 2004.*)

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**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. Its determinations for the next sitting Monday are shown under “Business accorded priority for Monday, 6 December 2004”. 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).

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**BUSINESS OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE**

*Wednesday, 1 December 2004*

*The Main Committee meets at 9.40 a.m.*

**GOVERNMENT BUSINESS****Orders of the day**

- 1 **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*).
  - 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 **CLASSIFICATION (PUBLICATIONS, FILMS AND COMPUTER GAMES) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 2004** (*Attorney-General*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 17 November 2004—Ms Roxon*).
  - 4 **NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION BILL 2004** (*Minister for Transport and Regional Services*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 18 November 2004—Mr Bevis*).
  - 5 **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*).
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## 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](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/info/notpaper/qons.pdf).

### *Questions unanswered*

Nos 1-233.

#### *1 December 2004*

- \*234 **MR BEAZLEY:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services—
- (1) What sum in child care assistance per child, per annum was allocated to (a) family, (b) private long, and (c) community long day care in (i) Australia, and (ii) Western Australia.
  - (2) What sum in child care assistance per child, per annum was allocated to (a) family, (b) private long, and (c) community long day care in the electorate of Brand and in the post-code area (i) 6165, (ii) 6167, (iii) 6168, (iv) 6169, (v) 6170, (vi) 6171, (vii) 6172, (viii) 6173, (ix) 6174, (x) 6175, (xi) 6176, and (xii) 6210.
- \*235 **MR BEAZLEY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—For the years 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004, what sum was allocated to each project that was funded in the electoral division of (a) Brand, (b) Canning, (c) Hasluck, and (d) Forrest under the (i) Roads to Recovery, (ii) Roads of National Importance, and (iii) Blackspot Program.
- \*236 **MR BEAZLEY:** To ask the Minister for Veterans' Affairs—
- (1) How many Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS) prescriptions were filled for DVA treatment card holders during (a) 2003-2004, and (b) 2004-2005 in (i) Western Australia, and (ii) the electoral division of Brand.
  - (2) How many RPBS prescriptions were filled for DVA treatment card holders during (a) 2003-2004, and (b) 2004-2005 in postcode area (i) 6165, (ii) 6167, (iii) 6168, (iv) 6169, (v) 6170, (vi) 6171, (vii) 6172, (viii) 6173, (ix) 6174, (x) 6175, (xi) 6176, and (xii) 6210.
- \*237 **MR BEAZLEY:** To ask the Minister for Health and Ageing—
- (1) How many individuals have reached the Medicare Safety Net Threshold during (a) 2003, and (b) 2004 in (i) Western Australia, and (ii) the electoral division of Brand.
  - (2) How many individuals have reached the Medicare Safety Net threshold during (a) 2003, and (b) 2004 in the postcode area (i) 6165, (ii) 6167, (iii) 6168, (iv) 6169, (v) 6170, (vi) 6171, (vii) 6172, (viii) 6173, (ix) 6174, (x) 6175, (xi) 6176, and (xii) 6210.
  - (3) How many families have reached the Medicare Safety Net Threshold during (a) 2003, and (b) 2004 in (i) Western Australia, and (ii) the electoral division of Brand.
  - (4) How many families have reached the Medicare Safety Net threshold during (a) 2003, and (b) 2004 in the postcode area (i) 6165, (ii) 6167, (iii) 6168, (iv) 6169, (v) 6170, (vi) 6171, (vii) 6172, (viii) 6173, (ix) 6174, (x) 6175, (xi) 6176, and (xii) 6210.
  - (5) How many families have registered for the Medicare Safety Net during (a) 2003, and (b) 2004 in (i) Western Australia, and (ii) the electoral division of Brand.
  - (6) How many families have registered for the Medicare Safety Net during (a) 2003, and (b) 2004 in the postcode area (i) 6165, (ii) 6167, (iii) 6168, (iv) 6169, (v) 6170, (vi) 6171, (vii) 6172, (viii) 6173, (ix) 6174, (x) 6175, (xi) 6176, and (xii) 6210.
- \*238 **MR BEAZLEY:** To ask the Minister for Health and Ageing—
- (1) How many individuals held a Safety Net Concession Card during (a) 2003, and (b) 2004 in (i) Western Australia, and (ii) the electoral division of Brand.

- (2) How many individuals held a Safety Net Concession Card during (a) 2003, and (b) 2004 in the postcode area (i) 6165, (ii) 6167, (iii) 6168, (iv) 6169, (v) 6170, (vi) 6171, (vii) 6172, (viii) 6173, (ix) 6174, (x) 6175, (xi) 6176, and (xii) 6210.
- (3) How many families held a Safety Net Concession Card during (a) 2003, and (b) 2004 in (i) Western Australia, and (ii) the electoral division of Brand.
- (4) How many families held a Safety Net Concession Card during (a) 2003, and (b) 2004 in the postcode area (i) 6165, (ii) 6167, (iii) 6168, (iv) 6169, (v) 6170, (vi) 6171, (vii) 6172, (viii) 6173, (ix) 6174, (x) 6175, (xi) 6176, and (xii) 6210.

\*239 **MR BEAZLEY:** To ask the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) How many individuals held a Safety Net Entitlement Card during (a) 2003, and (b) 2004 in (i) Western Australia, and (ii) the electoral division of Brand.
- (2) How many individuals held a Safety Net Entitlement Card during (a) 2003, and (b) 2004 in the postcode area (i) 6165, (ii) 6167, (iii) 6168, (iv) 6169, (v) 6170, (vi) 6171, (vii) 6172, (viii) 6173, (ix) 6174, (x) 6175, (xi) 6176, and (xii) 6210.
- (3) How many families held a Safety Net Entitlement Card during (a) 2003, and (b) 2004 in (i) Western Australia, and (ii) the electoral division of Brand.
- (4) How many families held a Safety Net Entitlement Card during (a) 2003, and (b) 2004 in the postcode area (i) 6165, (ii) 6167, (iii) 6168, (iv) 6169, (v) 6170, (vi) 6171, (vii) 6172, (viii) 6173, (ix) 6174, (x) 6175, (xi) 6176, and (xii) 6210.

\*240 **MR BEAZLEY:** To ask the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) Are the costs of medical procedures associated with an IVF program currently included in an individual's Medicare Safety Net entitlement; if so, (a) what has been the cost to date, and (b) what is the estimated cost for this financial year.
- (2) What proportion of births in Australia result from IVF processes.

**MR BEAZLEY:** To ask the Ministers listed below (questions Nos. \*241 - \*242)—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the offshore platform, 'Buffalo', is available for possible conversion to a surveillance platform in the Timor Sea.
- (2) Is the Minister aware of the Christmas/New Year deadline for the demolition of that platform.
- (3) Is it the case that in the Persian Gulf and elsewhere the United States of America and other countries have developed offshore platforms for the surveillance of important assets and the defence of sea routes and, in particular, that Qatar is developing a number of platforms for the defence of its assets.
- (4) Will the Government consider acquiring or leasing the Buffalo platform for a similar purpose; if not, why not.

\*241 **MR BEAZLEY:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Defence.

\*242 **MR BEAZLEY:** To ask the Attorney-General.

\*243 **MR DANBY:** To ask the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer—

- (1) Is he aware that the capital gains tax rollover relief available in section 126-5 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* is available only to heterosexual married or defacto couples because of the definition of 'defacto' in section 995-1 of the same Act.
- (2) Can he confirm that when same-sex couples break up they may have to pay capital gains tax in circumstances in which heterosexual couples would not.
- (3) Is he aware of the ruling by the United Nations Human Rights Committee in the case of *Young v Australia*.
- (4) Is he aware of the statement of the Prime Minister on 24 August 2001 to the effect that he is opposed to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.
- (5) Is he considering changes to the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* to ensure that same-sex and opposite-sex couples are treated similarly when relationships break down; if not, why not; if so, when will he introduce legislation to eliminate discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

\*244 **MR DANBY:** To ask the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer—

- (1) How many conclusive certificates has the Minister issued under each of sections 33, 33A, and 36 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* in each of the last six financial years.
- (2) In each of the last six financial years, how many appeals against those certificates were (a) lodged with the AAT, (b) successful, and (c) unsuccessful.

- (3) What are the case names of all the appeals lodged with the AAT in each of the last six financial years.
- \*245 **MR DANBY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) Is he aware of reports that Israel is planning to install 'Flight Guard' on civilian aircraft to protect against shoulder-fired surface to air missiles.
  - (2) Is he aware that 'Flight Guard' was recently tested and that the radar automatically spotted the Strella SA7 missile, launched flares, and that the missiles chased after the flares.
  - (3) Has he or his department evaluated this system for possible use in Australia; if so, what was the outcome; if not, why not.
  - (4) Is he able to say whether any commercial airlines in Australia have expressed interest in the system or evaluated it.
  - (5) Is the Government evaluating any other anti-missile systems for civilian aircraft and has it provided advice to Qantas on the installation of anti-missile systems.
  - (6) Is the Defence Science and Technology Organisation involved in research on anti-missile systems for Australian military or commercial aircraft.
- \*246 **MR DANBY:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—
- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 3624 (*Hansard*, 23 June 2004, page 30552), what action has he taken to obtain further information about the death of Mr Magnus Johansson and what further information has he received.
  - (2) Has he made representations to the Saudi Arabian authorities on the apprehension of those responsible for Mr Johansson's murder; if so, what are the details; if he has not, why not.
  - (3) What action has he taken to confirm the veracity of reports that (a) three of the four terrorists were deliberately released by Saudi security forces, and (b) there have been instances in which Saudi security forces have released suspected terrorists; if he has not taken action to verify these reports, why not.
  - (4) Is the Government satisfied with (a) the actions of the Saudi Arabian authorities in this matter, and (b) the policies and practices of the Saudi Arabian authorities in apprehending terrorists and bringing them to justice.
  - (5) Can he explain why the Australian Government has not made representations to the Saudi Arabian authorities on this issue.
- \*247 **MR DANBY:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—
- (1) Is he able to say whether the Chinese government formally recognises the freedom of the press and can he describe the extent and intensity of censorship of the Chinese media.
  - (2) Has the Government expressed its concern about the lack of freedom of the press in China; if so, (a) when, (b) to whom, and (c) what was the response; if not, why not.
  - (3) Can he confirm that the *Southern Metropolis Daily* newspaper in Guangzhou, China, is one of the most free and outspoken papers in the country and is he aware of the article it published on 25 April 2003 about the death of Sun Zhigang in a Chinese detention camp.
  - (4) Can he say whether Chinese law still allows for indefinite detention of individuals; if so, has the Government expressed its concern about this; if so, (a) when, (b) to whom, and (c) what was the response; if not, why not.
  - (5) Can he confirm that Cheng Yizhong, an editor of the *Southern Metropolis Daily*, was recently arrested by the Chinese authorities; if so, (a) why, (b) when, (c) with what was he charged, and (d) did his arrest coincide with the publishing of the article on Sun Zhigang.
  - (6) Can he say whether Mr Cheng has been tried; if so, in respect of the trial (a) was it free and fair, (b) was it conducted in open court, (c) were observers or members of the media admitted, and (d) was Mr Cheng convicted; if so, what was his sentence.
  - (7) Has the case of Mr Cheng been raised at the Australia-China Human Rights Dialogue; if so, (a) when, and (b) what was the response; if not, why not.
  - (8) Can he confirm that Chen Feng, a journalist for the *Southern Metropolis Daily*, was recently arrested by the Chinese authorities; if so, (a) why, (b) when, (c) with what was he charged, and (d) did his arrest coincide with the publishing of the article on Sun Zhigang.
  - (9) Can he say whether Mr Chen has been tried; if so, in respect of the trial (a) was it free and fair, (b) was it conducted in open court, (c) were observers or members of the media admitted, and (d) was Mr Chen convicted; if so, what was his sentence.

- (10) Has the case of Mr Chen been raised at the Australia-China Human Rights Dialogue; if so, (a) when, and (b) what was the response; if not, why not.
- (11) Can he confirm that Wang Lei, an editor of for the *Southern Metropolis Daily*, was recently arrested by the Chinese authorities; if so, (a) why, (b) when, (c) with what was he charged, and (d) did his arrest coincide with the publishing of the article on Sun Zhigang.
- (12) Can he say whether Mr Wang has been tried; if so, in respect of the trial (a) was it free and fair, (b) was it conducted in open court, (c) were observers or members of the media admitted, and (d) was Mr Wang convicted; if so, what was his sentence.
- (13) Has the case of Mr Wang been raised at the Australia-China Human Rights Dialogue; if so, (a) when, and (b) what was the response; if not, why not.

\*248 **MR DANBY:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—

- (1) Is he aware of Dr Jiang Yanyong who recently won the Ramon Magsaysay award.
- (2) Can he say what the Ramon Magsaysay award is; if so, (a) who selects the recipient of the award, (b) why was Dr Jiang awarded it, and (c) who are the previous recipients.
- (3) Is he able to say what action Dr Jiang has taken in relation to the alleged cover-up of the SARS health crisis in China.
- (4) Has Australia expressed its support or congratulated Dr Jiang for winning the Ramon Magsaysay award.
- (5) Can he say whether Dr Jiang has been arrested by the Chinese authorities; if so, (a) when, (b) why was he arrested, and (c) has he been released; if so, when and why.
- (6) Can he say whether Dr Jiang has been placed under house arrest; if so, what are the conditions.
- (7) Has he taken action to convey to the Government of the People's Republic of China Australia's condemnation of the arbitrary arrest and house arrest of Dr Jiang; if so, (a) when; (b) to whom, and (c) what was the response; if not, why not.
- (8) Is he aware of any other country which has made official representations to China about the arrest or house arrest of Dr Jiang; if so, what are the details.
- (9) Has the case of Dr Jiang been raised at the Australia-China Human Rights Dialogue; if so, (a) when, and (b) what was the response of the Chinese government; if not, why not.

\*249 **MR DANBY:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—

- (1) Can he confirm that Gendun Choekyi Nyima, the eleventh Panchen Lama, was kidnapped in 1995 at the age of six, along with his parents, by the Chinese authorities in Tibet and has not been seen since.
- (2) What efforts has the Government made to ascertain the whereabouts of the Panchen Lama and his family and what representations has the Government made on his behalf.
- (3) Was this matter raised (a) in the most recent Australia-China Human Rights dialogue, (b) at any of the previous dialogues, and (c) in any other representations on human rights that the Australian Government has made to the Chinese Government; if so, what was the response; if not, why not.

\*250 **MR M. D. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services—How many (a) male, and (b) female clients of the Child Support Agency in the electoral division of Batman (i) have a Child Support Liability, and (ii) receive a Child Support Payment.

\*251 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) During 2003-2004, were any Executive Council Minutes not approved by the Governor-General-in-Council at the Federal Executive Council meeting at which the Minute was first considered; if so, how many.
- (2) On how many occasions during 2003-2004 did the Governor-General, before approving an Executive Council Minute, seek information and/or advice from the Government in addition to that contained in the relevant Explanatory Memorandum accompanying the Minute.

\*252 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) Can he confirm that the average time he took to lodge answers to written questions during (a) 2001-2002 was 55 days for questions asked in the House and 45 days for questions asked in the Senate, (b) 2002-2003 was 66 days for questions asked in the House and 62 days for questions asked in the Senate, and (c) 2003-2004 was 104 days for questions asked in the House and 83 days for questions asked in the Senate.
- (2) How does he explain the progressively longer times it has taken him to respond to written questions asked of him both directly in the House and through the Leader of the Government in the Senate.

- (3) What specific measures has the Secretary of his department implemented to improve performance and ensure more rapid responses to written questions.
- (4) What specific measures has he implemented to improve performance and ensure more rapid responses to written questions.

\*253 **MR B. P. O'CONNOR:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Is he aware of the accident record of the section of the Calder Freeway at Taylors Lakes from the intersection with Sunshine Avenue to the intersection with Calder Park Drive.
- (2) Is he aware that the Victorian Government has proposed constructing several interchanges along this section of freeway, at Sunshine Avenue, Kings Road and Calder Park Drive, and closing the intersection with Robertsons Road.
- (3) Will the Commonwealth match the State Government's commitment of 50 per cent of the estimated total cost of \$60 million to allow construction of the proposed interchanges.
- (4) Has the Commonwealth previously committed any funding to commence the construction of the interchanges; if not, will he commit the Commonwealth to funding the construction of the Kings Road interchange, to alleviate the dangerous situation facing motorists along this stretch of the Calder Freeway.

\*254 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister representing the Special Minister of State—

- (1) Has the Minister read the article titled 'PM rejects voluntary vote call' in the *Australian Financial Review* on 22 November 2004 which reported that the Prime Minister will not abolish compulsory voting.
- (2) Can the Minister confirm that the Government will not change Australia's system of compulsory voting for federal elections and referenda; if not, why not.

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**I. C. HARRIS**

Clerk of the House of Representatives

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### 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.

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### COMMITTEES

*Unless otherwise shown, appointed for life of 41st Parliament*

#### Standing

*Pursuant to standing orders*

**ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS:** *(Members to be appointed).*

**AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY:** *(Members to be appointed).*

**COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS:** *(Members to be appointed).*

**ECONOMICS, FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION:** *(Members to be appointed).*

**EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING:** *(Members to be appointed).*

**EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION:** *(Members to be appointed).*

**ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE:** *(Members to be appointed).*

**FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES:** *(Members to be appointed).*

**HEALTH AND AGEING:** *(Members to be appointed).*

**HOUSE:** *(Members to be appointed).*

**INDUSTRY AND RESOURCES:** *(Members to be appointed).*

**LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS:** *(Members to be appointed).*

**LIBRARY:** *(Members to be appointed).*

**MEMBERS' INTERESTS:** *(Members to be appointed).*

**PRIVILEGES:** *(Members to be appointed).*

**PROCEDURE:** *(Members to be appointed).*

**PUBLICATIONS:** *(Members to be appointed).*

**SCIENCE AND INNOVATION:** *(Members to be appointed).*

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

**TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES:** *(Members to be appointed).*

### Joint Statutory

**ASIO, ASIS AND DSD:** Senator Ferguson, Senator Sandy Macdonald *(Members to be appointed).*

**AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION:** Senator Ferris, Senator Greig, Senator McGauran *(Members to be appointed).*

**BROADCASTING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS:** The Speaker, The President, Senator Ferris *(Members to be appointed).*

**CORPORATIONS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES:** *(Members to be appointed).*

**NATIVE TITLE AND THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER LAND FUND:** Senator Johnston, Senator Scullion *(Members to be appointed).*

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT:** Senator Humphries, Senator Murray, Senator Scullion, Senator Watson *(Members to be appointed).*

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Senator Ferguson, Senator the Hon. Judith Troeth *(Members to be appointed).*

### Joint Standing

**ELECTORAL MATTERS:** Senator Brandis, Senator Mason, Senator Murray *(Formed 18 November 2004) (Members to be appointed).*

*Current inquiry:*

Disclosure of donations to political parties and candidates.

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE:** Senator Eggleston, Senator Ferguson, Senator Harradine, Senator Johnston, Senator Sandy Macdonald, Senator Payne, Senator Stott Despoja *(Formed 18 November 2004) (Members to be appointed).*

**MIGRATION:** Senator Bartlett, Senator Eggleston, Senator Tchen *(Formed 18 November 2004) (Members to be appointed).*

**NATIONAL CAPITAL AND EXTERNAL TERRITORIES:** Senator Lightfoot, Senator Scullion, Senator Stott Despoja *(Formed 18 November 2004) (Members to be appointed).*

**TREATIES:** Senator Bartlett, Senator Mason, Senator Santoro, Senator Tchen *(Formed 18 November 2004) (Members to be appointed).*

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## 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).*