

2002-03

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 77

MONDAY, 3 MARCH 2003

1 The House met, at 12.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

**2 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

Ms Worth (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent Notice No. 1, private Members' business, given by Mrs Crosio and accorded priority for Monday, 3 March 2003, being presented in her absence by Mr McClelland.

Question—put and passed.

**3 EMPLOYEE PROTECTION (EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS GUARANTEE) BILL 2003**

Mr McClelland, for Mrs Crosio, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment and administration of a scheme to guarantee the payment of wages and other accrued liabilities owed to employees in the event of employer insolvency, and for related purposes.

Mr McClelland made a statement in relation to the Bill.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting, in accordance with standing order 104A.

**4 VETERANS' GOLD CARD**

Ms O'Byrne, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges that medical practices and individual general practitioners are advising veteran patients that they will no longer be able to recognise the gold card when charging them for medical services;
- (2) acknowledges that veterans are entitled to receive adequate and appropriate medical care in view of their service to this country;
- (3) notes that many practices and practitioners, in particular those with a high percentage of veteran patients, are struggling to provide acceptable levels of medical care and service, given the rebates and fees currently available to them; and
- (4) calls upon the Government immediately to negotiate with medical practitioners to ensure that an appropriate agreement is in place to enable doctors to provide adequate levels of care to gold card recipients.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**5 LANG HANCOCK**

Mr Schultz, pursuant to notice, moved—That, this year being the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of an historic event which led to the early development of the giant Pilbara iron ore discovery in Western Australia, this House:

- (1) calls on the Government to recognise the memorable flight on 22 November 1952, when Lang Hancock observed vast iron ore deposits in The Pilbara whilst flying in adverse weather accompanied by his wife Hope;
- (2) acknowledges the significant personal contribution Lang Hancock made in difficult circumstances in developing the mineral potential of this incredibly rich province—The Pilbara; and
- (3) pays tribute to this great Australian pioneer, who, against all odds, proved that if you have the vision you can achieve the impossible against seemingly insurmountable odds.

Debate ensued.

At 1.45 p.m., the time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 106A, Mr Randall was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for the next sitting.

## 6 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

## 7 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

*Member ordered to withdraw*

At 3.09 p.m. the Member for McMillan (Mr Zahra) was ordered, under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for one hour for continual interjection, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continued.

## 8 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Mr Abbott (Leader of the House) moved—That leave of absence from 3 to 6 March 2003 be given to Mr Lloyd on the ground of ill health.

Question—put and passed.

## 9 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Mr Crean (Leader of the Opposition) moved—That leave of absence from 3 to 6 March 2003 be given to Mrs Crosio on the ground of ill health.

Question—put and passed.

## 10 PETITIONS

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

## 11 OBESE CHILDREN

Ms Plibersek, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) notes that the percentage of Australian children who are overweight or obese is increasing; and
- (2) commits itself to promoting measures to increase fitness and encourage healthy lifestyles.

Debate ensued.

Debate adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

## 12 TOURISM INDUSTRY

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mrs Gash—That this House:

- (1) recognises the positive contribution of this Government in encouraging the tourism industry in Australia;
- (2) notes the impact of external factors on the local industry;
- (3) recognises the contribution of local and regional tourism to the national economy;
- (4) acknowledges the important role of local and regional tourism in providing employment opportunities for young people; and

- (5) recognises the need for more equitable dismissal laws for small business to ensure greater employment opportunities are made available by employers in the tourism industry—

Debate resumed.

The time allotted for private Members' business having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

### 13 GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 106, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

### 14 MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS

Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

24 February 2003—Message No. 106—

Australian Capital Territory Legislation Amendment 2003.

Commonwealth Volunteers Protection 2003.

Migration Legislation Amendment (Migration Advice Industry) 2003.

26 February 2003—Message No. 107—

Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (No. 1) 2003.

### 15 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 2002-2003

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed by Mr McMullan who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not declining to give the Bill a second reading, the House condemns the Government for its failures in economic management, and in particular its failings in relation to both income and expenditure policies because:

- (1) it is the highest taxing Government in Australian history, and:
  - (a) has imposed the highest level ever of income tax;
  - (b) is responsible for introducing the biggest new tax in our history; and
  - (c) is addicted to imposing ever more taxes and special levies;
- (2) it has failed to deliver on its basic responsibilities to the Australian people, for example:
  - (a) bulk billing has collapsed;
  - (b) there is chronic under-investment in our public schools, TAFE colleges and universities;
  - (c) the struggle to balance work and family life continues to get harder; and
  - (d) entry level housing is becoming even less affordable for struggling Australian families; and
- (3) despite the record tax take, and in spite of declining Government services, the Government has failed to keep the Budget in surplus after nearly a decade of strong economic growth, in that:
  - (a) it broke its unequivocal promise to keep the Budget in surplus in 2001-02;
  - (b) future surpluses are dependent on the additional revenue provided by bracket creep;
  - (c) it has presided over enormous waste and mismanagement including billions of dollars of foreign exchange losses and defence procurement losses; and
  - (d) it has lost control over expenditure necessitating wholesale changes to the budgetary management system”.

Debate continued.

Debate adjourned (Mr Bevis), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**16 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY**

Ordered—That order of the day No. 3, government business, be postponed until the next sitting.

**17 WORKPLACE RELATIONS AMENDMENT (SECRET BALLOTS FOR PROTECTED ACTION) BILL 2002 [NO. 2]**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Mr Secker addressing the House—

**18 ADJOURNMENT**

It being 9 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

*Paper*

Mr Albanese, by leave, presented the following paper:

Leichhardt Municipal Council—Extract of minutes of meeting, 26 November 2002.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 9:30 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

**PAPERS**

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 3 March 2003:

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 No. 8.

Air Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 No. 5.

Australian Crime Commission Establishment Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 No. 4.

Charter of the United Nations Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 No. 21.

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—

Airworthiness Directives—

Part 39-105—2003 14, 16, 24, 28(8), 29(3), 30(15), 31(6) January, 3(9), 4(5), 6(5), 7(18) February.

Part 39-106—2003 28(2), 29, 30(2), 3 February.

Part 39-107—2003 24(2), 28, 30(2) January, 4, 6 February.

Amendment Order—2003 No. 2.

Exemptions—2003 Nos EX03, EX04, EX05, EX06, EX07.

Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 Nos 16, 17, 18, 26.

Defence Act—Determination under section 58B—2003 No. 3.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act—

Instrument under subsection 303DC(1), 4 February 2003.

Instrument under subsection 303EC(1)(a), 10 December 2002.

Fisheries Levy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 No. 1.

Fisheries Management Act—

Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 No. 9.

South East Trawl Fishery Management Plan 1998—Revocation.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 No. 20.

Higher Education Funding Act—Determination—2003 No. T10.

Migration Act—Directions under section 499—2003 Nos 30, 31.

National Health Act—

Declarations—2003 Nos PB 1, PB 2, PB 4.

Determination—2003 No. PB 3.

Parliament Act—Parliamentary Zone—Reconciliation Place—Design and content of the sixth sliver.  
 Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 No. 23.  
 Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Fees Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 No. 24.  
 Petroleum (Submerged Lands) (Registration Fees) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 No. 25.  
 Primary Industries (Customs) Charges Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 Nos 2, 10, 13.  
 Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 Nos 3, 11, 14.  
 Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 No. 12.  
 Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Act, National Residue Survey (Customs) Levy Act  
 and National Residue Survey (Excise) Levy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 No. 15.  
 Privacy Act—Determinations under section 11B(1)(b)—2003 Nos 1, 2.  
 Research Involving Human Embryos Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2003 No. 22.  
 Sydney Airport Curfew Act—Dispensation—2003 No. 3.  
 Taxation Administration Act—  
 Bulletin—2003 No. GSTB 1.  
 Determination—2003 No. TD 1.  
 Rulings—2003 No. CR 8, CR 9, CR 10, PR 4, PR 5.  
*Telecommunications Act 1997*—Variation—2003 Telecommunications Numbering Plan (No. 1).  
 Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules  
 2003 No. 19.  
 Telecommunications (Numbering Charges) Act—Determinations—2003—  
 Telecommunications (Date of imposition of charge).  
 Telecommunications (Exemption from annual charge).  
 Workplace Relations Act—Rules—Statutory Rules 2003 Nos 6, 7.

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#### ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mrs Crosio\*, Jackie Kelly, Mr Latham,  
 Ms Livermore\*, Mr Lloyd\* and Mr Wilkie.

\* On leave

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**I. C. HARRIS**  
 Clerk of the House of Representatives