

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



Alert Digest

No. 4 of 2009

18 March 2009

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ISSN 1329-668X

Senate Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills

Members of the Committee

Senator the Hon H Coonan (Chair)

Senator M Bishop (Deputy Chair)

Senator D Cameron

Senator J Collins

Senator R Siewert

Senator the Hon J Troeth

Terms of Reference

Extract from **Standing Order 24**

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

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

AusCheck Amendment Bill 2009

Introduced into the House of Representatives on 12 March 2009

Portfolio: Attorney-General

Background

This bill amends the *AusCheck Act 2007* (AusCheck Act) to provide a framework to facilitate an extension of AusCheck's background checking functions for national security purposes, in addition to those already provided for in relation to aviation and maritime transport.

The bill does not contain any requirement for background checks but provides the capacity for AusCheck to conduct background checks that are required under authority of some other law.

The bill also includes specific provisions to authorise and protect biometric information about an individual where this is required in order to complete a background check; and expands AusCheck's authority to provide an online verification service to other types of authorities (in addition to aviation security identification cards and maritime security identification cards) that may be issued indicating that a person has undergone a national security background check.

Personal rights and liberties

Schedule 1, items 7, 9, 12 and 14

As the second reading speech explains, AusCheck was established to assist the aviation and maritime industries to identify high risk individuals who should not be given access to ports and airports. The bill significantly expands the potential scope of the background checking scheme.

Section 8 of the current AusCheck Act provides for the establishment of the scheme. Item 7 of Schedule 1 of the bill adds a new subsection (c) to section 8 to enable background checks on individuals to be conducted 'for purposes related to...(v) the executive power of the Commonwealth; or (vi) matters

incidental to the execution of any of the legislative powers of the Parliament or the executive power of the Commonwealth’.

The Committee considers that this creates a broad range of potential operation of the scheme. In his second reading speech, the Attorney-General explained that, if the government wishes to use the national security background check in a new context, it will separately develop the legislative or other regulatory provisions that establish the requirement for the background check; and that the bill ‘simply paves the way for Auscheck to take on additional background checking functions under future legislation’.

Section 9 of the current AusCheck Act provides for background checks. Item 9 of Schedule 1 of the bill adds a new subsection (4) to section 9 with the effect that, where an individual applies for a particular ‘card, licence, permit or authorisation’, they are background checked. As the explanatory memorandum explains (at paragraph 12), ‘...the background check is a condition of that application rather than something to which the individual has separately consented’. Proposed new paragraph 9(4)(b) provides that, before any such application, the individual must be ‘advised by the other person, in accordance with the requirements (if any) specified in the regulations, that a background check [i]s a precondition to the issuing of the card, licence, permit or authorisation’.

Under the current AusCheck Act, the exercise of delegations under the Act are limited to Australian Public Service employees at the SES or EL2 level (Part 2, section 12); and Part 3 of the Act provides for the management of information that is collected. Proposed new subsections 14(2) and 14(2AA), to be inserted by item 14 of Schedule 1 of the bill, replace current subsection 14(2). New subsections 14(2) and 14(2AA) specify how AusCheck scheme personal information may be used and disclosed. As the explanatory memorandum explains (at paragraph 17), ‘identity verification information’ (including biometric information) is separated out and only used for the purposes of further background checking. The intention of the amendments is that biometric information is only used for background checking purposes – that is, to make sure of the identity of a person – and not for other purposes associated with the AusCheck scheme. Item 12 of Schedule 1 adds two new subparagraphs to paragraph 13(c) to amend the authority for the Secretary to provide an online verification service to verify other types of authorities indicating that a person has undergone a national security background check.

The Committee's terms of reference require it to report on whether a bill trespasses unduly on personal rights and liberties. This bill amends the Auscheck Act which is the 'machinery' legislation for conducting background checks. In light of the proposed extension of the scheme, the Committee intends to closely scrutinise any future legislation establishing the requirement to conduct a background check. In particular, the Committee would like to see the inclusion in such legislation of a requirement that advice be given to a person who is asked to undergo a background check (in the context of the discussion above in relation to proposed new paragraph 9(4)(b)). In the circumstances of the existing Act, and the need for future legislation, the Committee makes no further comment.

In the circumstances, the Committee makes no further comment on this bill.

Australian Business Investment Partnership Bill 2009

Introduced into the House of Representatives on 12 March 2009
Portfolio: Treasury

Background

Introduced with the Australian Business Investment Partnership (Consequential Amendment) Bill 2009, this bill provides for the establishment, operations, and governance and reporting arrangements of a company called the Australian Business Investment Partnership Limited (ABIP). ABIP will be a temporary, contingency measure to provide liquidity support for viable commercial property assets where financiers (other than ABIP) have withdrawn from debt financing arrangements as a result of the global financial crisis.

ABIP will be established under the *Corporations Act 2001* and will be a public company limited by shares. The shareholders of ABIP will be the Commonwealth of Australia and Australia's four major domestic banks.

The bill establishes an appropriation for the Federal Government's initial \$2 billion contribution to the operations of ABIP; and an appropriation to support the Federal Government guarantee on any debt that ABIP issues up to a maximum of \$26 billion, plus any interest that may be payable in relation to the principal debt issued.

Insufficient parliamentary scrutiny

Clause 8

Clause 8 provides that ABIP may enter into financing arrangements. Subclause 8(4) provides that such arrangements must be entered into within two years beginning on the day when the Act commences – reflecting the temporary framework envisaged for the scheme. However, subclause 8(5) provides that '(t)he term of the arrangement is not to exceed 3 years or such longer period as is specified in the regulations'. This means that a financing arrangement could have a long duration. Meanwhile, because of the

contingency nature of ABIP, some other protections are not in place, such as the exemption of ABIP directors, officers, agents and employees from the *Trade Practices Act 1974* (see clause 16).

However, the bill does provide for parliamentary scrutiny of ABIP's financial report, director's report and auditor's report each financial year as the Minister is required to table them in each House of the Parliament (clause 12). The Auditor-General is the auditor of ABIP (clause 11). The shareholder's agreement (relating to the operation of the business that ABIP is to carry on; the control, management and funding of ABIP; and/or the rights and obligations of the members) is also to be published on the internet or otherwise (clause 6). Further, in his second reading speech, the Minister stated that he has tabled a draft agreement.

Given the parliamentary scrutiny provisions in the bill and the fact that the regulations will be the subject of scrutiny by the Senate Regulations and Ordinances Committee, the Committee considers that there is sufficient parliamentary scrutiny of the exercise of legislative power in this instance.

In the circumstances, the Committee makes no further comment on this provision.

Standing appropriations

Clauses 13 and 14

Clause 13 provides for an initial appropriation of \$2 billion out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the purpose of subscribing for shares in ABIP and providing a loan to ABIP. Clause 14 provides for an appropriation out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund to pay claims under the Deed of Guarantee; and repay borrowing, and interest on any borrowing, undertaken pursuant to Clause 15 for the purpose of paying claims under the Deed of Guarantee.

The Committee has determined that, as part of its standard procedures for reporting on bills, it should draw Senators' attention to the presence in bills of standing appropriations. It will do so under provisions 1(a)(iv) and (v) of its terms of reference, which require the Committee to report on whether bills:

- (iv) inappropriately delegate legislative powers; or
- (v) insufficiently subject the exercise of legislative power to parliamentary scrutiny.

In scrutinising standing appropriations, the Committee looks to the explanatory memorandum for an explanation of the reason for the standing appropriation. In addition, the Committee likes to see:

- some limitation placed on the amount of funds that may be so appropriated; and
- a sunset clause that ensures the appropriation cannot continue indefinitely without any further reference to Parliament.

In this case, the explanatory memorandum states (at page 4) that the appropriation for claims covered by the Commonwealth guarantee on any debt that ABIP issues is up to a maximum of \$26 billion, plus any interest that may be payable in relation to the principal debt issued. The explanatory memorandum recognises (at page 5) that the government guarantee on a debt issued by ABIP will create a contingent liability and, if the guarantee is called upon, there will be an impact on the underlying cash balance.

In his *Review of Operation Sunlight: Overhauling Budgetary Transparency* (June 2008), former Senator Andrew Murray, a previous member of this Committee, reported that, in 2002-03, more than 80% of all appropriations drawings for the year was spent from the Consolidated Revenue Fund under the authority of special (or standing) appropriations (page 29). Mr Murray drew attention to the need for parliamentary scrutiny of special or standing appropriations; and suggested that any such appropriations included in a bill be put in the Chamber as a separate question from the Chair in the committee-of-the-whole stage to ensure a separate vote on each appropriation (page 32). He recommended regular review of standing appropriations (recommendation 12).

In its June 2008 response to Mr Murray's report, the Federal Government agreed that review is needed but considered that such review be in a more limited form than that recommended (page 7).

The Committee notes that there is no sunset clause in this bill but there is a time limit on the entry into agreements that create liabilities (see discussion in

previous section). A maximum amount of guarantee on a debt is detailed in the explanatory memorandum, although the amount of interest payable cannot be provided (as this cannot be known). An explanation of ongoing liability is also provided in the explanatory memorandum.

In the circumstances, the Committee makes no further comment on this bill.

Australian Business Investment Partnership (Consequential Amendment) Bill 2009

Introduced into the House of Representatives on 12 March 2009
Portfolio: Treasury

Background

Introduced with the Australian Business Investment Partnership Bill 2009, this bill will provide the Australian Business Investment Partnership Limited (ABIP), once incorporated, with an exemption for the requirement to hold an Australian financial services licence (AFSL) under the *Corporations Act 2001*.

The Committee has no comment on this bill.

Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Political Donations and Other Measures) Bill 2009

Introduced into the House of Representatives on 12 March 2009

Portfolio: Special Minister of State

Background

This bill primarily amends the funding and disclosure provisions of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Electoral Act). The bill contains measures implementing commitments made in the 2007 federal election campaign, as well as addressing recommendations made by the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters following its inquiry into the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Political Donations and Other Measures) Bill 2008.

The bill deals with six major issues:

- first, it reduces the disclosure threshold for donors, registered political parties, candidates and others involved in incurring political expenditure from ‘more than \$10,000’ (indexed to the Consumer Price Index annually) to a flat rate of \$1,000 to provide transparency and accountability in the donations and expenditure received or incurred by key participants in the political process;
- second, it reduces the current timeframes for the making of returns and the disclosure of gifts and expenditure relating to an election by individual candidates and members of Senate groups and donors who make donations within the election period, from the existing 15 weeks to a period of eight weeks after polling day;
- third, it addresses a loophole in the existing donor disclosure laws, by using an existing definition of related political parties found elsewhere in the Electoral Act, to ensure that donations to different branches of a political party are treated as donations to the same party;
- fourth, it makes unlawful the receipt by registered political parties, candidates and members of a Senate group of gifts of foreign

property; and for other key players in the political process, such as associated entities and people incurring political expenditure, to receive overseas gifts that are used solely or substantially to incur political expenditure;

- fifth, it extends the current prohibition on the receipt of anonymous gifts above the threshold to prohibit the receipt of all anonymous gifts above \$50 by registered political parties, candidates and members of a Senate group; and makes it unlawful in some situations for people and candidates to incur political expenditure if an anonymous gift above \$50 enabled that political expenditure (the receipt of an anonymous gift of \$50 or less may only be received in two specified situations); and
- sixth, it aims to address the possibility that some candidates and other groups may obtain a windfall payment of election funding as a result of running for office to give effect to the Federal Government's announcement that any payment of election funding should be tied to actual 'electoral expenditure' that has been incurred.

The bill also introduces a range of new offences to the reporting and disclosure regime and generally increases the level of penalties in the Electoral Act; and extends the existing recovery powers in the Electoral Act for anonymous gifts and loans to the new prohibition on overseas gifts and other unlawful anonymous and undisclosed gifts.

The bill also contains application and saving provisions.

Wide discretion

Schedule 1, item 21, new subsection 298G(3)

Item 21 of Schedule 1 provides for the substitution of Subdivision A, concerning entitlement to election funding; and Subdivision B, concerning claims for election funding. Under Subdivision B, there may be interim and final claims for election funding lodged with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) (proposed new section 298B). If the AEC refuses a final claim (proposed new section 298F), an application may be made for reconsideration of the decision (proposed new section 298G).

Proposed new subsection 298G(3) provides that the application for reconsideration must be made within 28 days or, if the AEC extends the period within which the application may be made, within that extended period. The explanatory memorandum explains (at paragraph 92) that, in deciding whether to grant an extension of time, the AEC would have regard to the principles outlined in the case of *Hunter Valley Developments v Cohen* [1984] FCA 176. Proposed new subsection 298G(3) therefore gives the AEC a discretion to extend the time for lodging an application for reconsideration of a decision to refuse a final claim for election funding. This power operates in conjunction with the power of the AEC, under proposed new section 301 (to be inserted by item 25 of Schedule 1), to vary decisions accepting claims.

The Committee considers that this discretionary power of the AEC may make the rights of claimants unduly dependent upon insufficiently defined guidance as to how the power may be exercised. This is of particular concern if the AEC were to delegate its decision on the extension of time. For example, in proposed new section 298H, it is expressly stated that the AEC may not delegate its power to reconsider a claim; however, such a prohibition does not appear in proposed new section 298G in relation to the AEC's power to extend time for an application for reconsideration of a decision refusing a claim. Therefore, the Committee **seeks the Minister's advice** as to whether further explanation for the breadth of the AEC's discretionary power in proposed new section 298G might be provided, including the reasons why it is considered necessary not to limit that power in any particular way.

Pending the Minister's advice, the Committee draws Senators' attention to the provision, as it may be considered to make rights, liberties or obligations unduly dependent upon insufficiently defined administrative powers, in breach of principle 1(a)(ii) of the Committee's terms of reference.

Customs Legislation Amendment (Name Change) Bill 2009

Introduced into the House of Representatives on 12 March 2009
Portfolio: Home Affairs

Background

This bill amends the *Customs Administration Act 1985* to rename the Australian Customs Service as the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service. The bill will also make consequential amendments to 24 other Acts, including the *Customs Act 1901*, to reflect the name change.

The Committee has no comment on this bill.

Social Security Amendment (Liquid Assets Waiting Period) Bill 2009

Introduced into the House of Representatives on 12 March 2009
Portfolio: Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Background

This bill amends the *Social Security Act 1991* to:

- double the maximum reserve threshold for liquid assets to \$5,000 for singles without dependants, or \$10,000 for others, for a two-year period from 1 April 2009 (with the general effect of reducing the length of the Liquid Assets Waiting Period); and
- exclude the surrender value of life insurance policies from the definition of 'liquid assets' for social security purposes (so that life insurance policy surrender values will not be taken into account in calculating any applicable Liquid Assets Waiting Period or in determining severe financial hardship for the purposes of eligibility for income support).

The bill also makes technical amendments to the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936*, the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*, the *Social Security Act 1991*, the *Social Security (Administration) Act 1999* and the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* to correct the citation of the *Household Stimulus Package Act (No. 2) 2009* in those Acts.

The bill also contains application and transitional provisions.

Retrospective application Schedule 1, items 7-13

Part 3 of Schedule 1 contains technical amendments to five Acts to correct the reference to the *Household Stimulus Package Act (No. 2) 2009* which commenced on 18 February 2009. This means that the amendments in items

7-13 have retrospective application. However, the Committee notes that they have no substantive effect.

In the circumstances, the Committee makes no further comment on this bill.

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

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

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

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

Bill/Act	Section/Subsection	Offence	Penalty
Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Political Donations and Other Measures) Bill 2009	Schedule 1, item 96, proposed subsection 315(1)	Failure to furnish a Division 4, 5 or 5A return	120 penalty units
Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Political Donations and Other Measures) Bill 2009	Schedule 1, item 96, proposed subsection 315(2)	Furnishing a Division 4, 5 or 5A return that is incomplete	120 penalty units

Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Political Donations and Other Measures) Bill 2009	Schedule 1, item 96, proposed subsection 315(4)	Failing to retain records as required by section 317	120 penalty units
Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Political Donations and Other Measures) Bill 2009	Schedule 1, item 96, proposed subsection 315(4A)	Furnishing a Division 3 claim that is false or misleading	Imprisonment for two years or 240 penalty units, or both
Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Political Donations and Other Measures) Bill 2009	Schedule 1, item 96, proposed subsection 315(4B)	Furnishing a Division 4, 5 or 5A return that is false or misleading	Imprisonment for 12 months or 120 penalty units, or both
Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Political Donations and Other Measures) Bill 2009	Schedule 1, item 98, new penalty in subsection 315(6A)	Giving another person false or misleading information for a Division 3 claim	Imprisonment for two years or 240 penalty units, or both
Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Political Donations and Other Measures) Bill 2009	Schedule 1, item 99, new penalty in subsection 315(7)	Giving another person false or misleading information for a Division 4, 5 or 5A return	Imprisonment for 12 months or 120 penalty units, or both

SCRUTINY OF STANDING APPROPRIATIONS

The Committee has determined that, as part of its standard procedures for reporting on bills, it should draw senators' attention to the presence in bills of standing appropriations. It will do so under provisions 1(a)(iv) and (v) of its terms of reference, which require the Committee to report on whether bills:

- (vi) inappropriately delegate legislative powers; or
- (vii) insufficiently subject the exercise of legislative power to parliamentary scrutiny.

Further details of the Committee's approach to scrutiny of standing appropriations are set out in the Committee's *Fourteenth Report of 2005*. The following is a list of the bills containing standing appropriations that have been introduced since the beginning of the 42nd Parliament.

Bills introduced with standing appropriation clauses – 42nd Parliament

*Indicates passed by Senate	Bills and Clauses
	Australian Business Investment Partnership Bill 2009 — Clauses 13 and 14
*	COAG Reform Fund Bill 2008 — Clause 5 (CRF appropriated by virtue of section 21 of the <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i>)
*	Commonwealth Securities and Investment Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 — Schedule 1, item 10, subsection 5BA(7)
*	Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme Bill 2008 — Clause 84
*	Dental Benefits Bill 2008 — Clause 65
*	Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 — Schedule 1, item 6, section 14B
	Fair Work Bill 2008 — Subclause 559(4)
*	Farm Household Support Amendment (Additional Drought Assistance Measures) Bill 2008 — Schedule 1, item 29
	Federal Financial Relations Bill 2009 — Clause 22
	Federal Financial Relations (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2009 — Schedule 4, subitem 2(3)
*	Financial System Legislation Amendment (Financial Claims Scheme and Other Measures) Bill 2008 — Schedule 1, item 49, section 54A, and Schedule 2, item 23, section 70E (CRF appropriated by virtue of section 21 of the <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i>)

*	Fisheries Legislation Amendment (New Governance Arrangements for the Australian Fisheries Management Authority and Other Matters) Bill 2008 — Schedule 1, item 79, section 94B (CRF appropriated by virtue of section 21 of the <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i>)
*	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 — Schedule 5, item 141, section 65A
*	Guarantee Scheme for Large Deposits and Wholesale Funding Appropriation Bill 2008 — Clause 5
*	Nation-building Funds Bill 2008 — clauses 13, 61, 68, 75, 82, 132, 181, 188, 215 and 255 — (CRF appropriated by virtue of section 21 of the <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i>)
*	Protection of the Sea Legislation Amendment Bill 2008 — Schedule 1, item 20, section 46N
*	Safe Work Australia Bill 2008 — Clause 64 (CRF appropriated by virtue of section 21 of the <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i>)
*	Schools Assistance Bill 2008 — Clause 167
	Uranium Royalty (Northern Territory) Bill 2008 – Clause 18
*	Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (International Agreements and Other Measures) Bill 2008 — Schedule 1, item 1
*	Wheat Export Marketing Bill 2008 — Clause 58 (CRF appropriated by virtue of section 21 of the <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i>)

Other relevant appropriation clauses

*Indicates passed by Senate	Bills and Clauses
*	Household Stimulus Package Bill 2009 — Schedule 4, subitem 1(5): special appropriation clause – for a finite period of time (ie for circumstances arising in a particular financial year).
*	Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Economic Security Strategy) Bill 2008 — Schedule 4, item 4: special appropriation clause – for a finite period of time (ie for circumstances arising in a particular financial year).
*	Social Security and Veterans' Entitlements Legislation Amendment (One-off Payments and Other Budget Measures) Bill 2008 — Schedule 2, items 1 and 2, and Schedule 4, item 1: special appropriation clauses – for a finite period of time (ie. for circumstances arising in a particular financial year).

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE SCRUTINY OF BILLS

INDEX OF BILLS COMMENTED ON AND MINISTERIAL RESPONSES SOUGHT/RECEIVED - 2008/2009

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE		REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE		SOUGHT	RECEIVED	
Bills dealt with in 2008							
Corporations Amendment (Short Selling) Bill 2008	13(26.11.08)	13.11.08	27.11.08	Treasury	26.11.08	7.1.09	1(4.2.09)
Drink Container Recycling Bill 2008	2(19.3.08)		13.3.08	Senator Fielding	20.3.08		
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Control of Power Station Emissions) Bill 2008	6(25.6.08)		19.6.08	Senator Allison	26.6.08		
Fair Work Bill 2008	14(3.12.08)	25.11.08	4.12.08	Education, Employment and Workplace Relations	4.12.08	19.1.08	1(4.2.09)
<i>Financial System Legislation Amendment (Financial Claims Scheme and Other Measures) Act 2008</i>	12(12.11.08)	15.10.08	16.10.08	Treasury	13.11.08	4.12.08	1(4.2.09)
National Commissioner for Children Bill 2008	3(14.5.08)		18.3.08	Senator Bartlett	15.5.08		
Nation-building Funds (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008	13(26.11.08)	13.11.08	3.12.08	Finance and Deregulation	27.11.08	23.1.09	1(4.2.09)
Tax Agent Services Bill 2008	13(26.11.08)	13.11.08		Treasury	27.11.08	3.2.09	1(4.2.09)

NAME OF BILL	ALERT DIGEST	INTRODUCED		MINISTER	RESPONSE		REPORT NUMBER
		HOUSE	SENATE		SOUGHT	RECEIVED	
Bills dealt with in 2009							
Aviation Legislation Amendment (2008 Measures No. 2) Bill 2008	1(4.2.09)	3.12.08	12.2.09	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government	5.2.09	10.3.09	2(11.3.09)
Civil Aviation Amendment Bill 2009	3(18.3.09)	12.2.09	11.3.09	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government	12.3.09		
Customs Amendment (Enhanced Border Controls and Other Measures) Bill 2008	1(4.2.09)	3.12.08	10.3.09	Home Affairs	5.2.09	23.2.09	2(11.3.09)
Disability Discrimination and Other Human Rights Legislation Amendment Bill 2008	1(4.2.09)	3.12.08	12.2.09	Attorney-General	5.2.09	27.2.09	2(11.3.09)
Employment and Workplace Relations Amendment Bill 2008	1(4.2.09)	3.12.08	12.2.09	Employment and Workplace Relations	5.2.09	16.3.09	3(18.3.09)
Tax Laws Amendment (Taxation of Financial Arrangements) Bill 2008	1(4.2.09)	4.12.08	12.2.09	Treasury	5.2.09	11.3.09	3(18.3.09)
Therapeutic Goods Amendment (Medical Devices and Other Measures) Bill 2008	1(4.2.09)	3.12.08	3.12.08	Health and Ageing	5.2.09	12.2.09	2(11.3.09)
Trade Practices Amendment (Cartel Conduct and Other Measures) Bill 2008	1(4.2.09)	3.12.08	12.2.09	Treasury	5.2.09	11.3.09	3(18.3.09)
Transport Safety Investigation Amendment Bill 2009	3(11.3.09)	12.2.09	11.3.09	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government	12.3.09		