

Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday 4 December 2002

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.46pm

Privilege

Senator Harris gave [notice](#) of a motion to appoint an independent person to assess and report to the President on certain documents seized under warrant by the Queensland Police from Senator Harris's office on 27 November 2001

Legislation

[For full text of bills and other associated documents click here](#) 

The following bill was introduced in the Senate

- Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry (Bali Bombings) Bill 2002
[Private senator's bill]

Urgent bill considered

- Research Involving Embryos Bill 2002—The Senate agreed to apply a time limit to the bill [to enable consideration to be completed by 12.45pm on 5 December 2002]. [Committee of the whole](#) continued (1 amendment moved by Senator Harradine agreed to, 3 amendments moved by Senator Barnett agreed to, 1 amendment moved by Senator Barnett postponed and 3 amendments moved by Senator Harradine to be determined)

No bills were passed

Bills exempted from the cut-off order

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer moved [a motion](#) to exempt a number of bills from certain provisions of standing order 111 [to enable consideration this period of sittings]. An amendment (moved by Senator Ludwig) to remove some of the bills from the motion was agreed to [these bills will not be considered this period of sittings].

Notice of motion given to introduce a bill

- Crimes Legislation Enhancement Bill 2002—Notice of motion given by the Minister for Defence

See the **Committees** section for details of reports relating to legislation



Delegated legislation

For a complete list of notices of motion to disallow (and outcomes) click here [▶](#)

Committees

For scheduled public committee hearings click here [▶](#)

For committee reports click here [▶](#)

Reports tabled

- ❑ Scrutiny of Bills Committee–Alert Digest [No. 15](#) of 2002 and [15th report](#) of 2002 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]. Senator Mackay made a [statement](#) relating to the report.
- ❑ Selection of Bills Committee–[Report No. 13](#) of 2002 (tabled, amended and adopted) [contains recommendations to refer bills to legislation committees]

New inquiries

See the **Reports tabled** section (*Selection of Bills Committee Report*) for details of bills referred to committees

Public meeting

The Senate agreed that the following public meeting may be held while the Senate is sitting:

- ❑ Economics Legislation Committee–5 December 2002 from 4pm–to take evidence for the committee’s inquiry into the Financial Sector Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2002

Reporting dates

The Senate agreed to the following extension of time for a committee to report:

- ❑ Education of students with disabilities–Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee–10 December 2002

Notices of motion given

To extend a reporting deadline

- ❑ Transport Safety Investigation Bill 2002–Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee–10 December 2002

To refer a matter to a committee

- ❑ The facilitation of superannuation investment in rural and regional Australia, and [related matters](#)–Superannuation Select Committee–to report by the last sitting day in June 2003

Motion agreed to

The Senate agreed to a motion without debate about [child abuse](#)–moved by Senator Allison

Motions defeated

The Senate did not agree to motions about:

- ❑ Imprisonment of [Ms Lesley McCulloch](#) in Indonesia—moved by Senator Brown
- ❑ [Native forests](#) in Tasmania—moved by Senator Brown

Notices of motion

[For other notices of motion not mentioned elsewhere click here](#) 

Orders for the production of documents

Statements by Minister

- ❑ The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer made a [statement](#) about the [order](#) of the Senate of 3 December 2002 for the production of documents concerning the inter-departmental committee examining the effectiveness of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. The Parliamentary Secretary indicated that the government would respond to the order but not within the time specified.
- ❑ The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer made a [statement](#) about the [order](#) of the Senate of 3 December 2002 for the production of documents concerning the inclusion of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme in discussions for an Australia-United States free trade agreement. The Parliamentary Secretary said that neither the Minister for Health and Ageing nor the Department held any documents falling within the scope of the order.

Documents

[Government documents](#) were tabled

Petitions

No petitions were received

Also in the Senate yesterday

- ❑ The President made a [statement](#) confirming that questions must relate to a minister's ministerial responsibility
- ❑ Matters of public interest debate
- ❑ Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- ❑ Senator Santoro made his [first speech](#)
- ❑ Adjournment debate

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