



Senate Daily Summary

Monday 1 December 2003

The Senate met from 12.30pm until 11.23pm

Privilege

The President made [a statement](#) relating to a matter of privilege raised by the Chair of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee concerning possible improper interference with a witness. Senator Heffernan gave [a notice of motion](#) to refer the matter to the Committee of Privileges.

Legislation

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

The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- ❑ Age Discrimination Bill 2003
- ❑ Age Discrimination (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2003
- ❑ Customs Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003
- ❑ Racial and Religious Hatred Bill 2003 [No. 2][Private senator's bill]
- ❑ Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 5) 2003
- ❑ Workplace Relations Amendment (Improved Protection for Victorian Workers) Bill 2003

The following bills were considered

- ❑ Defence Legislation Amendment Bill 2003—second reading agreed to and committee of the whole commenced (2 Democrat [amendments](#) to be determined)
- ❑ Higher Education Support Bill 2003—second reading agreed to [resumption of consideration of the bill will commence at committee of the whole stage]
- ❑ Higher Education Support (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003—second reading agreed to [resumption of consideration of the bill will commence at committee of the whole stage]
- ❑ Legislative Instruments Bill 2003 and a related bill—second reading debate continued
- ❑ Legislative Instruments (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003—second reading debate continued

The following bills were passed with amendments

[The House of Representatives will now consider the amendments made by the Senate]

- ❑ New Business Tax System (Taxation of Financial Arrangements) Bill (No. 1) 2003–24 Government [amendments](#) agreed to
- ❑ States Grants (Primary and Secondary Education Assistance) Amendment Bill 2003–2 Opposition [amendments](#) agreed to
- ❑ Trade Practices Amendment (Personal Injuries and Death) Bill 2003–2 Opposition/Democrat [amendments](#) agreed to
- ❑ Trade Practices Legislation Amendment Bill 2003–26 Opposition [amendments](#) agreed to

Proclamations

[Proclamations](#) by the Governor-General were tabled announcing when particular parts of Acts would commence

*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](#)

*See the **Documents** section for details of instruments tabled*

Committees

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

[For committee reports click here](#)

Reports tabled

- ❑ Increasing the minimum representation for the Territories in the House of Representatives–Electoral Matters Joint Committee
- ❑ Treaties Joint Committee–56th report–Treaties tabled on 8 October 2003

Reporting dates

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

- ❑ Intelligence information received by Australia’s intelligence services in relation to weapons of mass destruction–ASIO, ASIS and DSD Joint Committee–to report by 1 March 2004

Motion defeated

The Senate did not agree to refer the Criminal Code Amendment (Terrorist Organisations) Bill 2003 to the Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee

Notices of motion given

To hold a private meeting when the Senate is sitting

- ❑ Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee–2 December 2003 from 7.30pm to 8.30pm–Performance of government agencies in the assessment and dissemination of security threats in South East Asia in the period 11 September 2001 to 12 October 2002

To extend reporting deadlines

- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee—
 - Forestry plantations—to report by 11 March 2004
 - Rural water resource usage—to report by 1 April 2004

Motion agreed to

The Senate agreed to [a motion](#) about Falun Gong practitioners—moved by Senator Stott Despoja

Motion defeated

A [motion](#) moved by Senator Bartlett about Iraq and weapons of mass destruction was defeated

Notices of motion

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

Orders for the production of documents

Motion agreed to

The Senate [ordered](#) the Minister representing the Treasurer to table certain documents prepared by the Department of the Treasury relating to: the First Home Owner Grant scheme; the impact of ‘bracket creep’; and the preparation of the Intergenerational Report 2002-03 (no later than 3pm on 4 December 2003)—moved by Senator Conroy

Statement by Minister

The Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer made a statement about the order requiring the tabling of any documents prepared by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority and the Department of the Treasury in relation to deposit bonds [in response to a motion moved by Senator Bartlett on [25 November 2003](#)]. The [minister indicated](#) that the documents will be considered and the order responded to.

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- Auditor-General—Report No. 14 for 2003-04—Performance audit—Survey of fraud control arrangements in APS agencies
- Auditor-General—Report No. 15 for 2003-04—Performance audit—Administration of staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*: Department of Finance and Administration
- [Clerk’s documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]

- ❑ Commonwealth Parliamentary Association—49th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 6 to 12 October 2003 and bilateral visit to Sri Lanka, 1 to 5 October 2003—Report of the Australian delegation
- ❑ Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference—109th, Geneva, Switzerland, 30 September to 3 October 2003 and visit to Latvia, 24 to 28 September 2003—Report of the Australian delegation
- ❑ [9 petitions](#) were received

No government documents were tabled

Also in the Senate yesterday

- ❑ Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- ❑ Urgency debate about the affordability of housing—[moved by Senator Bartlett](#)
- ❑ Adjournment debate

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The *Senate Daily Summary* is available on the Internet at www.aph.gov.au/senate
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