



Senate Daily Summary

Thursday 18 September 2003

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.24pm

Qualification of a senator

The Senate agreed [to a motion](#) to engage Queen's Counsel to advise on certain matters brought to the attention of the President by Senator Scullion which may have put him in conflict with [section 44\(v\)](#) of the Constitution

Legislation

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

The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- ❑ Crimes (Overseas) Amendment Bill 2003
- ❑ Energy Grants (Cleaner Fuels) Scheme Bill 2003
- ❑ Energy Grants (Cleaner Fuels) Scheme (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003
- ❑ Financial Management and Accountability (Anti-Restrictive Software Practices) Amendment Bill 2003 [Private senator's bill]
- ❑ Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 8) 2003
- ❑ Taxation Laws Amendment (Superannuation Contributions Splitting) Bill 2003

The following bills were considered

- ❑ Superannuation (Government Co-contribution for Low Income Earners) Bill 2003—committee of the whole continued (2 Government requests for [amendments](#) and 11 Government and 4 Greens amendments agreed to, 1 Opposition amendment to be determined)
- ❑ Superannuation (Government Co-contribution for Low Income Earners) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003—committee of the whole continued
- ❑ Superannuation (Surcharge Rate Reduction) Amendment Bill 2003—committee of the whole completed (31 Government [amendments](#) and 1 Opposition [amendment](#) agreed to)

The following bills were passed without amendments

[These bills will now be assented to]

- ❑ National Residue Survey (Customs) Levy Amendment Bill 2002
- ❑ National Residue Survey (Customs) Levy Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003

- National Residue Survey (Excise) Levy Amendment Bill 2002
- National Residue Survey (Excise) Levy Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003

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](#)

Regulations disallowed

The Senate *agreed to disallow* the following delegated legislation:

- Retirement Savings Accounts Amendment Regulations 2003 (No. 2), as contained in Statutory Rules 2003 No. 195 and made under the *Retirement Savings Accounts Act 1997*
- Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Amendment Regulations 2003 (No. 4), as contained in Statutory Rules 2003 No. 196 and made under the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993*

Notices of motion given

- Notices of motion were given by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances to disallow [various](#) delegated legislation 15 sitting days after 18 September 2003. The Chair made a [statement](#) about the notices of motion.

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

Committees

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

For committee reports [click here](#)

Reports tabled

- Age Discrimination Bill 2003—Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee
- Appropriations and Staffing Committee—Report for 2002-03
- Aspects of the *Veterans' Entitlement Act 1986* and the Military Compensation Scheme—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
- Migration Legislation Amendment (Identification and Authentication) Bill 2003—Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee
- Privileges Committee—[115th report](#)—persons referred to in the Senate (Board members of Electronic Frontiers Australia Inc.). Response as recommended by the committee was incorporated in [Hansard](#).
- Publications Committee—[11th report](#) [report adopted]
- Recruitment and training in the Australian Public Service—Finance and Public Administration References Committee

Government responses to committee reports

- Airspace 2000 and related issues—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee

Membership

The Senate agreed to the following change to committee membership:

- Economics Legislation Committee—Senator Cherry to replace Senator Murray for the committee's inquiry into the Taxation Laws Amendment (Superannuation Contributions Splitting) Bill 2003

Reporting dates

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

- Proposed budget changes to higher education—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee—to report by 7 November 2003

Ministerial statement

The Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer tabled a ministerial statement by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations about the Building and Construction Industry Improvement Bill 2003

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions about:

- [Iranian asylum seekers](#)—moved by Senator Nettle
- [Parliamentary zone](#)—capital works within the Parliamentary Zone for the installation of a commemorative plaque to the victims of the Bali atrocity in the northern hedged room of the Formal Gardens of the Parliamentary Precincts. Documents relating to the installation were also tabled.

The Senate also debated and agreed to [an urgency motion](#) about the rights of Indigenous children—moved by [Senator Ridgeway](#)

Motion debated

The Senate debated [a motion](#) moved by [Senator McLucas](#) about Australia's health system

Motions defeated

A [motion](#) moved by Senator Nettle about the funding of public education was defeated

Notices of motion

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

Orders for the production of documents

Statement by Minister

The Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer made a statement about the motion requiring certain details to be provided to the Senate about a shipment of sheep on the *Cormo Express* (by 3pm on 18 September 2003)—moved by Senator Bartlett. [The Minister indicated](#) that detailed information would not be provided to the Senate until the matter has been resolved.

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- Iranian asylum seekers—Open letter to the Australian Senate from Iranian asylum seekers

- No petitions were received
- No government documents were tabled

Also in the Senate yesterday

- Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- Government documents, committee reports, government responses and Auditor-General's reports were discussed
- 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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