



Senate Daily Summary

Tuesday 25 November 2003

The Senate met from 12.30pm until 11.50pm

Sitting days 2004

The Senate agreed to [days of meeting](#) for 2004

Legislation

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

The following bill was introduced in the Senate

- ❑ Sexuality and Gender Identity Discrimination Bill 2003 [Private senator's bill]

The following bills were considered

- ❑ Family and Community Services (Closure of Student Financial Supplement Scheme) Bill 2003—second reading debate continued
- ❑ Fuel Quality Standards Amendment Bill 2003—second reading agreed to [resumption of consideration of the bill will commence at committee of the whole stage]
- ❑ Higher Education Support Bill 2003—second reading debate continued [together with debate on the Opposition's [amendment](#) expressing a view about the bill's policy]
- ❑ Higher Education Support (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003—second reading debate continued
- ❑ Spam Bill 2003—second reading agreed to [resumption of consideration of the bill will commence at committee of the whole stage]
- ❑ Spam (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003—second reading agreed to [resumption of consideration of the bill will commence at committee of the whole stage]
- ❑ Student Assistance Amendment Bill 2003—second reading debate continued

The following bills were passed

Without amendments or requests [These bills will now be assented to]

- ❑ Family and Community Services and Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (2003 Budget and Other Measures) Bill 2003
- ❑ Offshore Petroleum (Safety Levies) Bill 2003
- ❑ Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Amendment Bill 2003

With amendments

- ❑ Customs Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2002–8 Government amendments agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the [amendments](#) made by the Senate]

The following messages from the House of Representatives were considered

- ❑ Australian Protective Service Amendment Bill 2003–The message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to the bill with [amendments](#). The Senate agreed to the amendments made by the House. [The bill will now be assented to]
- ❑ Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Extension of Time Limits) Bill 2003–The message reported that the House of Representatives had disagreed to the [requests for amendments](#) made by the Senate. The Senate resolved to press its requests for amendments not made by the House. [The House will now reconsider the requests for amendments]

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](#)

Notices of motion given

Notices of motion were given to disallow the following delegated legislation:

- ❑ Migration Amendment Regulations 2003 (No. 7), as contained in Statutory Rules 2003 No. 239 and made under the *Migration Act 1958–15* sitting days after 25 November 2003–by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances
- ❑ Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Amendment Regulations 2003 (No. 5), as contained in Statutory Rules 2003 No. 251 and made under the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993–15* sitting days after 25 November 2003–by Senator Sherry

Notice of motion withdrawn

A notice of motion to disallow the Child Disability Assessment Amendment Determination 2003, made under section 38D of the *Social Security Act 1991*, was withdrawn

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

Committees

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

[For committee reports click here](#)

Estimates

Budget estimates hearing re-convened

- ❑ Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee–25 November 2003 from 6.50pm–further examination of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs and the Attorney-General’s Department, with particular reference to migration zone excision matters and the *Minasa Bone* [and see Senate Daily Summary, page 5]

Additional information tabled

- Budget estimates 2003-04 and additional estimates 2002-03—[Employment, Workplace Relations](#) and Education Legislation Committee

Report tabled

- Migration Legislation Amendment (Migration Agents Integrity Measures) Bill 2003 and the Migration Agents Registration Application Charge Amendment Bill 2003—Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee

Membership

The Senate agreed that Senator Wong be appointed as a participating member of the Economics Legislation and References Committees

Medicare Select Committee re-appointed and matter referred

- [Government's 'Medicare plus'](#) package and related matters—to report by 11 February 2004

Reporting date determined

- Truth in Food Labelling Bill 2003—Community Affairs Legislation Committee—to report by 11 March 2004

Reporting date

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

- Maritime Transport Security Bill 2003—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—to report by 27 November 2003

Meetings

Public meetings

The Senate agreed that the following public and private meetings may be held while the Senate is sitting:

- Corporations and Financial Services Joint Committee—26 November 2003 from 4pm—Committee's duties to inquire into, and report on, the activities of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission and to examine its annual report
- Economics References Committee—2 December 2003 from 7.30pm—Structure and distributive effects of the Australian taxation system
- Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee—26 November 2003 from 11.30am to 1.30pm—Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Invasive Species) Bill 2002

Private meeting

- ASIO, ASIS and DSD Joint Committee—27 November 2003 from noon to 1.30pm—Intelligence Services Amendment Bill 2003, and the accuracy of pre-war intelligence on Iraq

Notices of motion given

To refer matters to committees

- ❑ Health Legislation Amendment (Medicare and Private Health Insurance) Bill 2003, the proposed government amendments to the bill and the implications for access and affordable health care coverage and safety nets—Community Affairs Legislation Committee—to report by 10 February 2004
- ❑ Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment—Treaties Joint Committee—to report by 23 March 2004
- ❑ Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Legislation Amendment Bill 2003, the Ozone Protection (Licence Fees—Imports) Amendment Bill 2003, and the Ozone Protection (Licence Fees—Manufacture) Amendment Bill 2003 and related matters—Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee—to report by 31 March 2004

Ministerial statement

The Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer (Senator Coonan) tabled a ministerial statement by the Attorney-General about military commissions for Guantanamo Bay detainees

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions about:

- ❑ [Australian cultural content](#) and the proposed Australia-United States free trade agreement—moved by Senator Brown
- ❑ [Council of Australian Governments](#) (COAG)—moved by Senator Harradine
- ❑ [International Day](#) for the Elimination of Violence Against Women—moved by Senator Stott Despoja
- ❑ [Public and community housing](#)—moved by Senator Bartlett

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](#) that 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 be tabled (by 3.30pm on 1 December 2003)—moved by Senator Bartlett

Statement by Minister

The Minister for Finance and Administration made a statement about the order requiring the Minister representing the Minister for Trade to table certain documents relating to the Sepon Mine project in Laos [in response to a motion moved by Senator Nettle on [16 October 2003](#)]. The [Minister indicated](#) that the Minister for Trade would not table the documents because they were commercial in confidence. Senator Brown also made a [statement](#).

Document tabled

- ❑ Anti-competitive and other practices by health funds and providers—Report by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission for the period 1 January 2002 to 30 June 2003 (*order [agreed to](#) 25 March 1999*)

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- ❑ [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- ❑ [Government documents](#)
- ❑ [6 petitions](#) were received

Also in the Senate yesterday

- ❑ Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- ❑ Adjournment debate

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2003-04 BUDGET ESTIMATES SUPPLEMENTARY HEARINGS

Tuesday 25 November 2003

Related links

For [general information](#) about the consideration of the 2003-04 Budget estimates (membership of committees, portfolio allocation, terms of reference, hearing schedules etc)

Portfolio budget statements and related documents can be obtained from the Senate Table Office (phone 62773010) and on the Internet at www.budget.gov.au

Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee

Portfolios allocated: Attorney-General; Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs
For [current information](#) about the committee's hearings

The committee met from 6.57pm until 10.47pm.

- The committee **completed** its further examination of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs and the Attorney-General's Department, with particular reference to migration zone excision matters and the *Minasa Bone*

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The *Senate Daily Summary* is available on the Internet at www.aph.gov.au/senate
Enquiries, comments and suggestions: phone 6277 3209
e-mail: sue.blunden@aph.gov.au

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