The Senate met from 9.30am until 10.44pm

**Change in sitting hours**

The Senate agreed to a variation in sitting hours and routine of business for 27 March 2003

**Legislation**

For full text of bills and other associated documents click here

**The following bills were introduced in the Senate**

- Corporations (Fees) Amendment Bill 2002
- Corporations Legislation Amendment Bill 2003
- Corporations (Review Fees) Bill 2002
- Energy Grants (Credits) Scheme Bill 2003
- Energy Grants (Credits) Scheme (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003
- Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (Disability Reform) Bill (No. 2) 2002 [No. 2]
- Health Insurance Amendment (Diagnostic Imaging, Radiation Oncology and Other Measures) Bill 2002
- Industry, Tourism and Resources Legislation Amendment Bill 2003
- National Blood Authority Bill 2002

**The following bill was considered**

- Corporations Amendment (Repayment of Directors’ Bonuses) Bill 2002–second reading agreed to and committee of the whole commenced–3 Australian Democrat amendments agreed to and 2 Opposition amendments to be determined

**The following bills were passed**

*Without amendments* [These bills will now be assented to]*

- Medical Indemnity (Prudential Supervision and Product Standards) Bill 2002
- Medical Indemnity (Prudential Supervision and Product Standards) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2002
With amendments

- Transport Safety Investigation Bill 2002–6 National Party amendments agreed to
  [The House of Representatives agreed to the amendments made by the Senate. The bill will now be assented to.]
- Transport Safety Investigation (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2002–2 National Party (amended by 2 Australian Democrat) amendments agreed to [The House of Representatives agreed to the amendments made by the Senate. The bill will now be assented to.]

The following message from the House of Representatives was considered

- Workplace Relations Amendment (Prohibition of Compulsory Union Fees) Bill 2002 [No. 2]–The message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to one and disagreed to five amendments made by the Senate. The Senate agreed not to insist on the five amendments disagreed to by the House. [The bill will now be assented to]

Notices of motion given to introduce bills

- Defence Amendment (Parliamentary approval for Australian involvement in overseas conflicts) Bill 2003–by Senators Bartlett and Stott Despoja [Private senators’ bill]
- Health and Ageing Legislation Amendment Bill 2003–by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer
- Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2003–by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer

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

- Corporations Legislation Amendment Bill 2002 and 2 related bills–Economics Legislation Committee
- Proposed fit-out of new leased premises for the Bureau of Meteorology, 700 Collins Street, Docklands, Victoria–Public Works Joint Committee
- Review of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission–Corporations and Financial Services Joint Committee
- Scrutiny of Bills Committee–Alert Digest No. 4 of 2003 and 3rd report of 2003 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]
- Selection of Bills Committee–Report No. 4 of 2003 (tabled and adopted) [contains recommendations to refer bills to legislation committees]
- Workplace Relations Amendment (Termination of Employment) Bill 2002–Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee
**Membership**
The Senate appointed Senator Kirk as a participating member of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee for the committee’s inquiry into the 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

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

**Reporting dates**
The Senate agreed to the following extensions of time for committees to report:

**Notice of motion given to refer a matter to a committee**
The circumstances surrounding the application, approval and expenditure of funding under the Dairy Regional Assistance Program for the construction of a new building and the installation of additional machinery at the Moruya Steel Profiling Plant in New South Wales in the 2001-02 financial year–Finance and Public Administration References Committee–to report by 30 June 2003–by **Senator O’Brien**

**Motions agreed to**
The Senate agreed to motions without debate about:
- **Hand of Peace Exchange**–Iraqi children–moved by Senator Stott Despoja
- **Iraq**–Australian Defence Force Personnel–moved by Senator Brown

**Notices of motion**
*For other notices of motion not mentioned elsewhere click here*

**Orders for the production of documents**

*Motion agreed to*
The Senate noted that the government had not responded to the order of the Senate concerning the government’s consideration of an ethanol excise and production subsidy (agreed to 16 October 2002) and agreed to call on the government to comply with the order (no later than 5pm on 27 March 2003)

*Statement by Minister*
The Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer made a statement relating to the order of the Senate of **25 March 2003** for the production of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian Government and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Minister indicated that it was not in the public interest for the government to comply with the order. The Senate took note of the statement.
Orders with continuing effect

Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the internet

Statements of compliance for various agencies were tabled [Letters of advice about certain files created by departments and agencies required to be tabled twice yearly; Senate order agreed to and amended]

Departmental and agency contracts published on the internet

Statements of compliance for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Dairy Adjustment Authority were tabled [Letters of advice about certain contracts valued at $100,000 or more entered into by departments and agencies required to be tabled twice yearly; Senate order agreed to and amended]

Documents

The following documents were tabled:
- Auditor-General–Audit report No. 35 of 2002-03–Performance audit–Fraud control arrangements in the Australian Customs Service
- Clerk’s documents [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- Government documents
- Royal Commission–Building and Construction Industry–Final report by the Royal Commissioner the Honourable TRH Cole, RFD, QC, and ministerial statement by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, 26 March 2003

Petitions

A petition was received

Also in the Senate yesterday

- Matters of public interest debate
- Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- 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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