



Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday 26 November 2003

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.30pm

Legislation

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

The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- ❑ Medical Indemnity Amendment Bill 2003
- ❑ Medical Indemnity (IBNR Indemnity) Contribution Amendment Bill 2003

The following bills were considered

- ❑ Family and Community Services (Closure of Student Financial Supplement Scheme) Bill 2003 and Student Assistance Amendment Bill 2003—second reading debate continued [together with debate on the Australian Greens' [amendment](#) expressing a view about the bills' policy]
- ❑ Spam Bill 2003—committee of the whole commenced (5 Opposition [amendments](#) agreed to, and 1 Opposition [amendment](#) to be determined)
- ❑ Spam (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003—committee of the whole commenced

No bills were passed

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

- ❑ Annual report 2002-03—Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee
- ❑ New main entrance at the Lucas Heights Science and Technology Centre, Lucas Heights, NSW—12th report of 2003—Public Works Joint Committee

- Plastic Bag Levy (Assessment and Collection) Bill 2002 [No. 2] and the Plastic Bag (Minimisation of Usage) Education Fund Bill 2002 [No. 2]—Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee
- Redevelopment of radiopharmaceutical building no. 23 at Lucas Heights, Sydney, NSW—13th report of 2003—Public Works Joint Committee
- Scrutiny of Bills Committee—[Alert Digest](#) No. 15 of 2003 and [14th report](#) of 2003 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]
- Selection of Bills Committee—[Report No. 15](#) of 2003 (tabled and adopted) [contains recommendations to refer bills to legislation committees]

New inquiry

The Senate agreed to refer the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment to the Treaties Joint Committee—to report by 23 March 2004

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

Motion defeated

The Senate did not agree to refer the 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 to the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee

Notices of motion given

To hold public meetings when the Senate is sitting

- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—27 November 2003 from 6.30pm and 28 November 2003 from 9am to 4.25pm—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

- Australian telecommunications network—Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee—to report by 12 February 2004
- Children in institutional care—Community Affairs References Committee—to report by 30 April 2004
- Draft Aviation Transport Security Regulations 2003—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—to report by 2 December 2003
- Hepatitis C in Australia—Community Affairs References Committee—to report by 17 June 2004
- Poverty and financial hardship—Community Affairs References Committee—to report by 4 March 2004

To appoint a Select Committee

- ❑ [To appoint a Select Committee](#) on the Lindeberg grievance to inquire into whether any false or misleading evidence was given to the Select Committee on Public Interest Whistleblowing, the Select Committee on Unresolved Whistleblower Cases or the Committee of Privileges in respect of its 63rd and 71st reports and related matters—no reporting date specified

Ministerial statement

The Minister for Family and Community Services tabled the 12th annual statement to Parliament on Australia's development cooperation program

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions about:

- ❑ [Council of Australian Governments](#)—moved by Senator Ridgeway
- ❑ [9th National Aboriginal](#) and Torres Strait Islander Sports Awards—moved by Senator Ridgeway
- ❑ [Unemployment rate](#)—moved by Senator Nettle

Notices of motion

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

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- ❑ [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- ❑ [Government documents](#)
- ❑ [Parliamentary zone](#)—documentation relating to security upgrade works proposed by the Joint House Department for the Parliament House loading dock. A notice of motion was also given to approve the proposal.
- ❑ Response to a Senate resolution about [passive smoking](#)—from the Victorian Minister for Health (resolution agreed to [11 September 2003](#))
- ❑ [4 petitions](#) were received

Also in the Senate yesterday

- ❑ Matters of public interest debate
- ❑ Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- ❑ Matter of public importance discussion about the Heiner Affair and the Lindeberg grievance—[proposed by Senator Harris](#)
- ❑ 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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