The Senate met from 12.30pm until 11.02pm

**Change in sitting hours**

The Senate agreed to a variation in sitting hours and routine of business for 6 and 7 December 2004

**Legislation**

For full text of bills and other associated documents click here

The following bill was introduced in the Senate

- Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Amendment Bill 2004

The following bill was considered

- Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Amendment Bill 2004—second reading debate began

The following bills were passed

*Without amendments*

[These bills will now be assented to]

- Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2004
- States Grants (Primary and Secondary Education Assistance) Legislation Amendment Bill 2004
- Vocational Education and Training Funding Amendment Bill 2004

*With amendments*

- Schools Assistance (Learning Together—Achievement Through Choice and Opportunity) Bill 2004–9 Opposition and 4 Democrat amendments agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the amendments made by the Senate]

The following bills were exempted from the cut-off order [to enable consideration this period of sittings]

- Copyright Legislation Amendment Bill 2004
- James Hardie (Investigations and Proceedings) Bill 2004
- National Water Commission Bill 2004
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 [Clerk's documents] tabled

Committees
For scheduled public committee hearings click here
For committee reports click here

Report tabled
- Selection of Bills Committee–Report No. 13 of 2004 [report adopted] [contains recommendations to refer bills to legislation committees]

Documents tabled
- Hepatitis C and blood supply in Australia–Community Affairs References Committee

Membership
The Senate agreed to various changes to committee membership [see Journals entries 24 and 32]

Message from the House of Representatives reported
A message from the House of Representatives was reported advising the Senate of the appointment of members of the House of Representatives to joint committees

New inquiry
The Senate agreed to the following new inquiry:
- The implications for the Government’s proposed changes to the funding arrangements for targeted assistance in Indigenous education–Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee–to report by 12 May 2005

Inquiries re-adopted
The Senate agreed to adopt reports of two committees concerning matters referred in the previous parliament:
- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee–
  - Effectiveness of Australia’s military justice system [inquiry re-adopted, together with the power to use records of the committee of the previous parliament]
  - Report by the Director of Trials of the Review of Test and Evaluation in Defence [inquiry not re-adopted]
- Legal and Constitutional References Committee–Inquiry into Australian expatriates [inquiry re-adopted, together with the power to use records of the committee of the previous parliament]

See the Reports tabled section (Selection of Bills Committee Report) for details of bills referred to committees
Meetings
The Senate agreed that private meetings of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee may be held while the Senate is sitting.

Notices of motion given
To hold a public meeting when the Senate is sitting
- Community Affairs Legislation Committee—9 December 2004 from 10.30am—to take evidence on a matter relating to the Department of Health and Ageing

To extend a reporting deadline
- Disability Discrimination Amendment (Education Standards) Bill 2004—Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee—to report by 8 December 2004

To refer matters to committees
- Australia’s economic and political relationship with China and related matters—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—to report by 15 September 2005
- Proposed agreement between Australia and the US concerning the surrender of US nationals to the International Criminal Court and related matters—Treaties Joint Committee—to report by 30 June 2005
- The overall effectiveness and appropriateness of the Privacy Act 1988 as a means by which to protect the privacy of Australians and related matters—Legal and Constitutional References Committee—to report by 30 June 2005
- Unfair dismissal and related matters—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee—to report by 14 June 2005

Motions agreed to
The Senate agreed to motions about:
- Murray River—moved by Senator Brown
- Parliamentary zone—to approve the replacement and extension of cooling towers at the rear of Old Parliament House

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

Orders for the production of documents
Documents tabled
The Minister for Justice and Customs tabled determinations made under subsections 22(1) and (2) of the Air Passenger Ticket Levy (Collection) Act 2001 [in response to a motion moved by Senator Allison on 2 December 2004]

Documents
The following documents were tabled:
- Clerk’s documents [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
European Institutions and France—Report of the Australian parliamentary delegation, 19 April to 7 May 2004

2 petitions were received

No government documents were tabled

Also in the Senate yesterday

- Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- Adjournment debate [link to first speaker]

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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

This publication is issued by the Senate Procedure Office as a convenient summary of each day’s proceedings in the Senate. For a complete account see the official record, the Journals of the Senate, copies of which may be obtained from the Senate Table Office (phone: 6277 3010) or on the Internet at http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/pubs/index.htm.