The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.28pm

Legislation
For full text of bills and other associated documents click here

The following bills were introduced in the Senate
- Australian Sports Commission Amendment Bill 2004
- Criminal Code Amendment (Trafficking in Persons Offences) Bill 2004
- Customs Amendment Bill 2004
- James Hardie (Investigations and Proceedings) Bill 2004
- Tax Laws Amendment (Retirement Villages) Bill 2004

The following bill was considered
- James Hardie (Investigations and Proceedings) Bill 2004–second reading debate continued [The Democrats moved a second reading amendment to the bill expressing a view about the bill’s policy]

The following bills were passed with amendments
- Customs Amendment Bill 2004–2 Opposition amendments agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider this bill as amended]
- National Water Commission Bill 2004–1 Democrat amendment (amended by 1 Government amendment) agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the amendment made by the Senate]
- Tax Laws Amendment (Retirement Villages) Bill 2004–3 Opposition 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 [These bills will now be assented to]
- Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Amendment Bill 2004–The message reported that the House of Representatives had disagreed to the amendments made by the Senate. The Senate agreed not to insist on its amendments.
- National Security Information (Criminal Proceedings) Bill 2004–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 of Representatives.
Tax Laws Amendment (Superannuation Reporting) Bill 2004—The message reported that the House of Representatives had disagreed to the amendments made by the Senate. The Senate agreed not to insist on its amendments.

The following message from the House of Representatives was reported

- National Security Information (Criminal Proceedings) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2004—The message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to the bill without amendments [The bill will now be assented to]

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

- Customs Amendment Bill 2004

Notices of motion given

- To restore a bill to the Notice Paper [to enable consideration of the bill to be resumed at the stage reached in the previous Parliament]
- Flags Amendment (Eureka Flag) Bill 2004—Notice of motion given by Senator Marshall
- Senate Voters’ Choice (Preference Allocation) Bill 2004—Notice of motion given by Senator Brown

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

Reports tabled

- Appropriations and Staffing Committee—41st report—Security funding; Appropriation bills: Payments to international organisations [The Senate adopted the committee’s recommendations relating to security funding, and Appropriation Bills and payments to international organisations]
- Disability Discrimination Amendment (Education Standards) Bill 2004—Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee
- Public Works Committee—Several reports
- Scrutiny of Bills Committee—Alert Digest No. 12 of 2004 and 12th report of 2004 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]
- Selection of Bills Committee—Report No. 14 of 2004 [report adopted] [contains recommendations to refer bills to legislation committees]
Senators’ Interests Committee—Register of Senate senior executive officers’ interests, lodged between 19 June and 6 December 2004

Senators’ Interests Committee—Register of senators’ interests, lodged between 19 June and 6 December 2004

Membership
The Senate agreed to the following change to committee membership:

Finance and Public Administration References Committee–Senator McLucas appointed as a participating member

New inquiries
The Senate agreed to the following new inquiries:

Australian Communications and Media Authority Bill 2004 and the Australian Communications and Media Authority (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2004 and related matters—Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee—to report by 10 March 2005

Australia’s economic and political relationship with China and related matters—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—to report by 15 September 2005

Compensation arrangements for wheat growers after the writing-off of the Iraqi wheat debt and related matters—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee—to report by 16 June 2005

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

Inquiries of the previous parliament
The Senate agreed to adopt reports of three committees concerning matters referred in the previous parliament:

Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee

Proposed amendment to Schedule 1B of the Workplace Relations Act [re-adoption deferred until the first meeting of the committee in February]

Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee

Student income support [inquiry re-adopted—to report by 16 June 2005]

Life-long learning inquiry [consideration of the re-adoption of the inquiry deferred until the first meeting of the committee in the new year]

Indigenous employment and training [re-adoption deferred until at least the end of 2005]
Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee

- Budgetary and environmental implications of the Government’s Energy White Paper [inquiry re-adopted, together with the power to use records of the committee of the previous parliament]

Notices of motion given
To hold a private meeting when the Senate is sitting

- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee–9 February 2005 from 4pm to 6pm–administration of Biosecurity Australia concerning the revised draft import risk analysis for apples from New Zealand

To refer a bill to a committee

- Workplace Relations Amendment (Small Business Employment Protection) Bill 2004–Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee–to report by 14 March 2005

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions about:

- Ansett–Employee entitlements–moved by Senator Allison
- Colombia–Ingrid Betancourt and Clara Rojas–moved by Senator Brown
- Mr John Bulunbulun–Red Ochre Award–moved by Senator Ridgeway

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

Orders for the production of documents

Document tabled

- Anti-competitive and other practices by health funds and providers–Report by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission for the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 [Senate order agreed to 25 March 1999]

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- Clerk’s document [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- Government documents
- A petition was received
Also in the Senate yesterday

- Matters of public interest debate [link to first speaker]
- 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
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