



# Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday 12 May 2004

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.18pm

## Privilege

The Senate agreed to refer to the Committee of Privileges the question of whether there was an unauthorised disclosure of the draft report of the Community Affairs References Committee in relation to poverty and financial hardship and whether any contempt was committed in that regard

## Legislation

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

### No bills were introduced in the Senate

#### The following bill was considered

- ❑ Sex Discrimination Amendment (Teaching Profession) Bill 2004—second reading debate continued

#### The following bills were passed

##### *Without amendments*

- ❑ Veterans' Entitlements Amendment (Electronic Delivery) Bill 2004  
[This bill will now be assented to]

##### *With amendments*

- ❑ Australian Federal Police and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2003 [2004]—1 Democrat and 45 Government [amendments](#) agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider this bill as amended]
- ❑ Postal Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2003—1 Government (amended by 7 Opposition), 1 Democrat and 5 Opposition amendments agreed to, and 1 Division and 11 items omitted [The House of Representatives will now consider the [amendments](#) made by the Senate]

#### Notice of motion given

*To exempt bills from the cut-off order* [to enable consideration this period of sittings]

- ❑ Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (More Help for Families—Increased Payments) Bill 2004

- Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (More Help for Families—One-off Payments) 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](#)

### Notice of motion to rescind disallowance resolution

The Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads gave notice of a motion to rescind, for the purposes of section 49 of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*, the [resolution](#) of the Senate of 24 March 2004 disallowing certain items of the Corporations Amendment Regulations 2003 (No. 8), as contained in Statutory Rules 2003 No. 282 and made under the *Corporations Act 2001*

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](#)

### Estimates

*Additional information tabled*

- Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee—Budget estimates 2003-04 (Supplementary)
- Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee—Additional estimates 2003-04

*Statement tabled*

- Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee—Draft budget estimates—Australian National Audit Office for 2004-05

### Reports tabled

- New International Tax Arrangements Bill 2003—Economics Legislation Committee
- Scrutiny of Bills Committee—[Alert Digest No. 6](#) of 2004 and [6th report](#) of 2004 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]
- Selection of Bills Committee—[Report No. 7](#) of 2004 [report adopted] [contains recommendations to refer bills to legislation committees]
- Tax Laws Amendment (2004 Measures No. 1) Bill 2004—Economics Legislation Committee
- Treasury Legislation Amendment (Professional Standards) Bill 2003—Economics Legislation Committee

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

### Public meetings

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

- Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee–13 May 2004 from 3.30pm to 6pm–Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Amendment (Employee Involvement and Compliance) Bill 2002
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee–13 May 2004 from 4pm to 6pm–administration of Biosecurity Australia concerning the revised draft import risk analysis for bananas

### Reporting dates

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

- Administration of AusSAR in relation to the search for the *Margaret J*–Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee–to report by 5 August 2004
- Forestry plantations–Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee–to report by 24 June 2004
- Rural water resource usage–Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee–to report by 12 August 2004

### Notices of motion given

*To determine a reporting deadline*

- Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the United States of America Select Committee–to report on 12 August 2004

*To refer matters to committees*

- Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Preventing Smoking Related Deaths) Bill 2004; Tobacco Advertising Prohibition (Film, Internet and misleading Promotion) Amendment Bill 2004 exposure draft; and the response of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to reporting requirements on tobacco issues to the Senate–Community Affairs Legislation Committee–to report by 4 August 2004
- Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Access to Electoral Roll and Other Measures) Bill 2004–Legal and Constitutional References Committee–to report by 15 June 2004
- The effect of the principles of the Government’s funding package on government and non-government schools and [related matters](#)–Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee–to report by 11 August 2004

### Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions about:

- [Eureka rebellion](#)–moved by Senator Marshall
- [Higher Education Contribution Scheme](#)–moved by Senator Stott Despoja
- [International Conference for Renewable Energies](#)–moved by Senator Brown

## Motion defeated

A [motion](#) moved by Senator Brown on the proposed International Renewable Energy Agency was defeated

## Notices of motion

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

## Orders for the production of documents

### *Statement by Minister*

The Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads made a [statement](#) indicating that the government would not be providing the documents relating to the exercise of ministerial discretion under the *Immigration Act 1958* specified in the [order](#) of the Senate of 1 April 2004. [Senator Ludwig](#) made a statement in response.

### *Documents tabled*

The Deputy President tabled a letter from the Minister for Health and Ageing responding to the [resolution](#) of the Senate of 8 October 2003 concerning the National Drug Research Strategy

### **Orders with continuing effect**

#### *Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the internet*

A statement of compliance for the Communications, Information Technology and the Arts portfolio was tabled [Letters of advice about certain files created by departments and agencies required to be tabled twice yearly; [Senate order](#) agreed to]

## Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- [Clerk's documents](#) [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
- Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- Senator Fifield (Liberal, Victoria) made his [first speech](#)
- Adjournment debate

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