



# Senate Daily Summary

Monday 7 March 2005

The Senate met from 12.30pm until 10.26pm

## Legislation

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

### The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- ❑ Aged Care Amendment (Transition Care and Assets Testing) Bill 2005
- ❑ Australian Communications and Media Authority Bill 2004
- ❑ Australian Communications and Media Authority (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2004
- ❑ Broadcasting Services Amendment (Anti-Siphoning) Bill 2004
- ❑ Datacasting Charge (Imposition) Amendment Bill 2004
- ❑ Defence Amendment Bill 2005
- ❑ National Health Amendment (Prostheses) Bill 2005
- ❑ National Security Information (Criminal Proceedings) Amendment (Application) Bill 2005
- ❑ Navigation Amendment Bill 2004
- ❑ New International Tax Arrangements (Managed Funds and Other Measures) Bill 2004
- ❑ Radio Licence Fees Amendment Bill 2004
- ❑ Radiocommunications (Receiver Licence Tax) Amendment Bill 2004
- ❑ Radiocommunications (Spectrum Licence Tax) Amendment Bill 2004
- ❑ Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Amendment Bill 2004
- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (2004 Measures No. 6) Bill 2004
- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (2004 Measures No. 7) Bill 2005
- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (2005 Measures No. 1) Bill 2005
- ❑ Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Charges) Amendment Bill 2004
- ❑ Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Amendment (National Relay Service) Bill 2005
- ❑ Telecommunications (Numbering Charges) Amendment Bill 2004
- ❑ Television Licence Fees Amendment Bill 2004

### The following bill was considered

- ❑ Postal Industry Ombudsman Bill 2004 [2005]—second reading debate continued

### **The following bills were passed**

#### *Without amendments or requests*

[These bills will now be assented to]

- ❑ Aged Care Amendment (Transition Care and Assets Testing) Bill 2005
- ❑ Defence Amendment Bill 2005
- ❑ National Security Information (Criminal Proceedings) Amendment (Application) Bill 2005
- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (2004 Measures No. 6) Bill 2004
- ❑ Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Amendment (National Relay Service) Bill 2005

### **The following messages from the House of Representatives were reported**

- ❑ Bankruptcy and Family Law Legislation Amendment Bill 2005–The message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to the bill with an [amendment](#) [The Senate will consider the message on a future sitting day]
- ❑ Disability Discrimination Amendment (Education Standards) Bill 2004 [2005]–The message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to the bill without amendment [The bill will now be assented to]

### **Notice of motion given to introduce a bill**

- ❑ Parliamentary Service Amendment Bill 2005–Notice of motion given by the President

### **Assent to laws**

[Assent](#) to a number of laws was reported in the Senate

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](#)

### **Notices of motion given to disallow delegated legislation**

- ❑ Administrative Guidelines made under section 238-10 of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*–15 sitting days after 7 March 2005–by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances
- ❑ Amendment No. 1 to the Transitional Arrangements for Students Guidelines, pursuant to items 4 and 8 of Schedule 1 of the *Higher Education Support (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Act 2003*–15 sitting days after 7 March 2005–by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances
- ❑ [Approvals and Notices of Approval](#) in relation to 27 educational institutions, made under section 16-50(1) of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*–11 sitting days after 7 March 2005–by Senator Nettle
- ❑ OS-Help Guidelines, made under section 238-10 of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*–15 sitting days after 7 March 2005–by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances
- ❑ Other Grants Guidelines, made under section 238-10 of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*–15 sitting days after 7 March 2005–by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances

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*

- Budget estimates 2004-05–Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### Committee reports tabled

- Broadcasting Services Amendment (Anti-Siphoning) Bill 2004–Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee
- Expanding Australia's trade and investment relations with the Gulf States–Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee
- Review of the listing of six terrorist organisations–ASIO, ASIS and DSD Joint Committee
- Treaties Joint Committee–63<sup>rd</sup> report–Treaties tabled on 7 December 2004

### Other report tabled

- Access to committee documents–[Standing order 37\(3\)](#)

### Membership

The Senate agreed to the following change to committee membership:

- Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee–Senator Mason to replace Senator Scullion for the committee's inquiry into the effectiveness and appropriateness of the *Privacy Act 1988* on 21 and 22 April, and 19 and 20 May 2005

### Message from the House of Representatives reported

A message from the House of Representatives was reported advising of the [appointment of members](#) to the ASIO, ASIS and DSD Joint Committee

### Inquiry of the previous parliament

[The Senate agreed](#) to adopt the following report concerning a matter referred in the previous parliament:

- Community Affairs References Committee–Social security breaches and penalties systems [*Inquiry not re-adopted*]

### Reporting dates

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

- Criminal Code Amendment (Trafficking in Persons Offences) Bill 2004 [2005]–Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee–to report by 10 March 2005
- Tax Laws Amendment (2004 Measures No. 7) Bill 2005–Economics Legislation Committee–to report by 9 March 2005
- Workplace Relations Amendment (Right of Entry) Bill 2004–Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee–to report by 14 March 2005

### **Motion to refer a matter to a committee defeated**

The Senate defeated [a motion](#) moved by Senator Nettle to refer the matter of the detention of Ms Cornelia Rau, and related matters, to the Legal and Constitutional References Committee

### **Notices of motion given**

*To hold public meetings when the Senate is sitting*

- Corporations and Financial Services Joint Committee–15 March 2005 from 5pm–statutory oversight of the operations of ASIC
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee–9 March 2005 from 10.30am to 11.30 am–implementation of a recommendation in its report concerning the Australian meat quota consultative structure

*To refer a matter to a committee*

- [Iraqi detainees and related matters](#)–Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee–to report by 21 June 2005

### **Motion agreed to**

The Senate agreed to [a motion](#) about Burma and national reconciliation–moved by Senator Nettle

### **Ministerial statement**

The Minister for Defence made a ministerial statement about the Australian task group deployment to Iraq. The Senate debated a motion (moved by Senator Evans) to take note of the statement. The motion was agreed to.

### **Notices of motion**

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

### **Orders for the production of documents**

*Notice of motion given*

Senator Stott Despoja gave a notice of motion to require the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing to table instructions given by and responses to the Minister for Health and Ageing by the Department of Health and Ageing regarding the abortion issue within the past 12 months (no later than the conclusion of question time on 17 March 2005)

*Document tabled*

The Acting Deputy President tabled a statement of measures taken by Telstra to ensure its senior officers are appropriately trained in their obligations to Parliament [The Committee of Privileges [119<sup>th</sup> report](#) recommended the tabling of the statement of measures. The Senate agreed to the recommendation on [5 August 2004](#).]

### 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]

#### *Departmental and agency contracts published on the internet*

Statements of compliance for various agencies [*see* entries [21](#) and [33](#)] were tabled—Presented since the last sitting of the Senate [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]

## Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- ❑ [Auditor-General](#)—Reports nos 28 to 30 of 2004-05—Presented since the last sitting of the Senate
- ❑ Auditor-General—Audit report no. 27 of 2004-05—Performance audit—Management of the conversion to digital broadcasting: Australian Broadcasting Commission and Special Broadcasting Service Corporation
- ❑ [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- ❑ [Government documents](#) presented since the last sitting of the Senate
- ❑ [Responses](#) to a Senate resolution about the Tsunami disaster—from the Ambassador of Indonesia and the High Commissioner of India [resolution agreed to [8 February 2005](#)]

No petitions were received

## Also in the Senate yesterday

- ❑ Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- ❑ The President informed the Senate of the death, on 13 February 2005, of Peter Nicholson Duckett White MC, a member of the House of Representatives for the division of McPherson from 1981 to 1990
- ❑ Adjournment debate

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