



Senate Daily Summary

Wednesday 7 December 2005

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.48pm

Legislation

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

The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- ❑ Census Information Legislation Amendment Bill 2005
- ❑ Defence Legislation Amendment (Aid to Civilian Authorities) Bill 2005
- ❑ Fisheries Legislation Amendment (Cooperative Fisheries Arrangements and Other Matters) Bill 2005
- ❑ Higher Education Support Amendment (Abolition of Compulsory Up-front Student Union Fees) Bill 2005
- ❑ Jurisdiction of Courts (Family Law) Bill 2005
- ❑ Jurisdiction of the Federal Magistrates Court Legislation Amendment Bill 2005
- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (Improvements to Self Assessment) Bill (No. 2) 2005

The following bills were considered

- ❑ Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005—second reading debate continued [together with debate on a [second reading amendment](#) moved by the Opposition expressing a view about the bill's policy]
- ❑ Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management (Related Amendments) Bill 2005—second reading debate continued

The following bills were passed

With amendments

- ❑ Employment and Workplace Relations Legislation Amendment (Welfare to Work and Other Measures) Bill 2005 [The House of Representatives made the [amendments requested](#) by the Senate. The House will now consider the amendments made by the Senate.]
- ❑ Tax Laws Amendment (Loss Recoupment Rules and Other Measures) Bill 2005—1 Government amendment agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the [amendment](#) made by the Senate]

The following messages from the House of Representatives were reported

- Defence Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2005–The message reported that the House of Representatives agreed to the bill without amendment [The bill will now be assented to]
- Higher Education Legislation Amendment (2005 Budget Measures) Bill 2005–The message reported that the House of Representatives had disagreed to certain [amendments made by the Senate](#) and made amendments in place of those amendments, agreed to an amendment made by the Senate, and made a further amendment [The Senate will now consider the message on a future sitting day]
- Workplace Relations Amendment (Work Choices) Bill 2005–The message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to the [amendments made by the Senate](#) [The bill will now be assented to]

Notice of motion given to introduce a bill

- Therapeutic Goods Amendment (Repeal of Ministerial responsibility for approval of RU486) Bill 2005–Notice of motion given by Senator Nash

See **Committees** for details of reports relating to legislation

Delegated legislation

For a complete list of [notices of motion to disallow](#) (and outcomes)

See **Documents** for details of instruments [Clerk's documents] tabled

Committees

For scheduled [public committee hearings](#)
For [committee reports](#)

Estimates

Additional information tabled

- Economics Legislation Committee–Budget estimates 2004-05 and Budget estimates (Supplementary) 2004-05
- Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee–Budget estimates 2005-06

Reports tabled

- Proposed fit-out of new leased premises for the Australian Customs Service at 1010 Latrobe Street, Melbourne Docklands–22nd report of 2005–Public Works Committee
- Scrutiny of Bills Committee–[Alert Digest No. 15](#) of 2005 [contains assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]
- Treaties Joint Committee–69th report: Treaties tabled on 13 September and 11 October 2005 and 70th report: Treaty tabled on 9 November 2005

Government responses

President's report on Government responses tabled

President's report on government responses outstanding to parliamentary committee reports as at 7 December 2005

Documents tabled

- Anti-Terrorism Bill (No. 2) 2005–Additional information–Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee
- Register of senators' interests incorporating statements of registrable interests and notifications of alterations of interests of senators lodged between 13 September and 5 December 2005–Standing Committee of Senators' Interests

Membership

The Senate agreed that Senator Hurley replace Senator Crossin on the Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee for the committee's inquiry into the provisions of the Australian Citizenship Bill 2005 and a related bill

New inquiries

- Funding and resources available to meet the objectives of Australia's national parks, other conservation reserves and marine protected areas [and related matters](#)–Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee–to report by 30 November 2006
- Petitions tabled in the Senate on 6 December 2005 relating to the management and prevention of gynaecological cancers and sexually transmitted infections–Community Affairs References Committee–to report by the last sitting day in March 2006
- Viability of a contract labour scheme between Australia and countries in the Pacific region [and related matters](#)–Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee–to report by 17 August 2006

Establishment of a committee

The Senate agreed to establish a [Joint Committee on the Parliamentary Library](#)

Motion debated

The Senate debated [a motion](#) moved by Senator Marshall to refer the matter of the role and performance of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation to the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee

Motion defeated

The Senate *did not agree* to a motion moved by Senator Siewert to refer the matter of the involvement of the Australian Wheat Board (AWB) in the Iraq Oil-for-Food Programme between 1999 and 2003 [and related matters](#) to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

Notices of motion given

To extend reporting deadlines

- Economic impact of salinity on the Australian environment–Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee–to report by 28 March 2006

To hold public meetings when the Senate is sitting

- Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee–28 February 2006 from 4.30pm to 9pm–economic impact of salinity on the Australian environment

To refer a bill to a committee

- ❑ Therapeutic Goods Amendment (Repeal of Ministerial responsibility for approval of RU486) Bill 2005—to be referred immediately on introduction into the Senate to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee—to report by the second sitting day in 2006

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions about:

- ❑ [Community radio station 4ZZZ-FM](#)—moved by Senator Bartlett
- ❑ [Government appointments](#)—moved by Senator Bartlett

Motions defeated

The Senate *did not agree* to motions about:

- ❑ [East Timor](#)—moved by Senator Nettle
- ❑ [Sexual health education](#)—moved by Senator Allison

Notices of motion

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

Orders for the production of documents

Notice of motion given

Senator Sherry gave a [notice of motion](#) to require the Minister representing the Treasurer to table certain correspondence in relation to the nomination and appointment of Mr Robert Gerrard to the Board of the Reserve Bank of Australia—no later than 2.30pm on 8 December 2005

Document tabled

- ❑ Australian Competition and Consumer Commission—Report to the Australian Senate on anti-competitive and other practices by health funds and providers in relation to private health insurance for the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005
[The report was tabled in response to the order of the Senate agreed to on [25 March 1999](#) on the motion of Senator Harradine and amended on [18 September 2002](#)]

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- ❑ [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- ❑ [Government documents](#) [and considered]
- ❑ Register of senior executive officers' interests, December 2005—Department of the Senate

- Death of Warrant Officer David Russell Nary—letter to the President from the Chief of the Defence Force (Air Chief Marshall A G Houston) [response to Senate [resolution](#) agreed to 8 November 2005]
- 3 [petitions](#) were received

Also in the Senate yesterday

- Matters of public interest debate [[first speaker](#)]
- Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time [[first question](#)]
- Adjournment debate [[first speaker](#)]

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