



Senate Daily Summary

Thursday 17 March 2005

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.16pm

The Senate has now completed its Autumn sittings and will commence the Winter sittings on [10 May 2005](#)

Legislation

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

The following bill was introduced in the Senate

- ❑ Fisheries Legislation Amendment (International Obligations and Other Matters) Bill 2005

The following bills were passed

Without amendments or requests [These bills will now be assented to]

- ❑ Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment (Levy and Fees) Bill 2005
- ❑ Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2004-2005
- ❑ Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2004-2005
- ❑ Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 2) 2004-2005

The following messages from the House of Representatives were reported

- ❑ Australian Sports Commission Amendment 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]
- ❑ Parliamentary Service Amendment Bill 2005—the message reported that the House of Representatives had agreed to the bill without amendment [The bill will now be assented to]

The following messages from the House of Representatives were considered

- ❑ Administrative Appeals Tribunal Amendment Bill 2005—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 to the bill. [The bill will now be assented to]
- ❑ Australian Communications and Media Authority Bill 2004—the message reported that the House of Representatives had disagreed to the [amendments](#) made by the Senate. The Senate resolved not to insist on its amendments to the bill. [The bill will now be assented to]

- Australian Communications and Media Authority (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2004—the message reported that the House of Representatives had disagreed to the [amendments](#) made by the Senate. The Senate resolved not to insist on its amendments to the bill. [The bill will now be assented to]

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Notices of motion withdrawn

[Notices of motion](#) to disallow certain instruments were withdrawn

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

- [Budget estimates](#) 2004-05 and [Budget estimates](#) 2004-05 (Supplementary)—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee

Reports tabled

- Administration of Biosecurity Australia: Revised draft import risk analysis for apples from New Zealand—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
- Administration of Biosecurity Australia: Revised draft import risk analysis for bananas from the Philippines—Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
- Protecting vulnerable children: A national challenge—Inquiry into children in institutional or out-of-home care—2nd report—Community Affairs References Committee
- Publications Committee—[2nd Report](#) [report adopted]

Membership

The Senate agreed to various changes to committee membership [see Journals entries nos [50](#) and [53](#)]

New inquiries

- Workplace Relations Amendment (Fair Dismissal Reform) Bill 2004—Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee—to report by 14 June 2005 [for inquiry and report as part of the committee's current inquiry into unfair dismissal laws]
- Salinity in the Australian environment, [and related matters](#)—Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee—to report by 13 October 2005

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

Motion to refer a matter to a committee defeated

The Senate *did not agree* to [a motion](#) to refer a matter about bird flu to the Community Affairs References Committee—moved by Senator Brown

Notice of motion given

To refer a matter to a committee

- [Ms Cornelia Rau](#)—Matters arising from the holding of Ms Cornelia Rau in immigration detention—Legal and Constitutional References Committee—to report by 17 August 2005

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions about:

- [Amnesty International](#)—Death of Mr Peter Benenson—moved by Senator Allison
- [Harmony Day](#) and International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination—moved by Senator Ludwig
- [National Youth Week](#)—moved by Senator Bartlett
- [Parliamentary zone](#)—to approve the proposal for the temporary location of a sculpture adjacent to Questacon
- [Sexual orientation](#) and human rights—moved by Senator Greig
- [St Patrick's Day](#)—moved by Senator Ludwig
- [West Papua](#)—International aid money and Indonesian military activity—moved by Senator Brown

Motion defeated

The Senate *did not agree* to [a motion](#) about Iraq and Australian defence personnel moved by Senator Nettle

Notices of motion

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

Orders for the production of documents

Motions agreed to and documents tabled

The Senate ordered the tabling of the following documents:

- [Letter](#) from the Department of Education, Science and Training to the Australian Council of Deans of Education about the National Priority Funding for Teacher Education (no later than 3.30pm on 17 March 2005) by the Minister representing the Minister for Education, Science and Training—moved by Senator Carr. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry made [a statement](#) about the order and [tabled the letter](#).

- [Two outcome documents](#) prepared by the Social Research Centre Pty Ltd about apprenticeships (no later than 3.30pm on 17 March 2005) by the Minister representing the Minister for Education, Science and Training—moved by Senator Carr. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry made [a statement](#) about the order and tabled [a related document](#). The Senate agreed to a motion to take note of the statement [moved by Senator Carr](#).

Statement by Parliamentary Secretary

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry made [a statement](#) relating to the order of the Senate [agreed to on [8 March 2005](#)] requiring the tabling of the 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). The Minister indicated that no documents fell within the terms of the order.

Document provided

The Acting Deputy President advised the Senate that the report from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) concerning the competition notice issued to Telstra by the ACCC on 19 March 2004 and the decision of the ACCC to resolve the matter without litigation was provided to the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee [The report was provided to the committee in response to the order of the Senate agreed to on [10 March 2005](#) on the motion of Senator Conroy]

Orders with continuing effect

Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the internet

A statement of compliance for the Environment and Heritage portfolio agencies 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]
- [Response](#) to a Senate resolution about the Tsunami disaster—from the Chief of the Defence Force [resolution agreed to [8 February 2005](#)]
- [A petition](#) was received

No government documents were tabled

Also in the Senate yesterday

- [Advance to the Finance Minister](#) 2003-04 was approved
- Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time
- Government documents, committee reports, government responses and Auditor-General's reports were discussed
- Adjournment debate [link to [first speaker](#)]

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