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Senate Daily Summary

Thursday 18 August 2005

The Senate met from 9.30am until 8.28pm

Legislation

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

The following bills were introduced in the Senate

- Australian Workplace Safety Standards Bill 2005
- Health Insurance Amendment (Medical Specialists) Bill 2005
- Higher Education Legislation Amendment (2005 Budget Measures) Bill 2005
- National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (Repeal, Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2005
- National Residue Survey (Customs) Levy Amendment Bill 2005
- National Residue Survey (Excise) Levy Amendment Bill 2005
- Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Superannuation Safety and Other Measures) Bill 2005
- Workplace Relations Amendment (Small Business Employment Protection) Bill 2004

The following bills were considered

- Building and Construction Industry Improvement Bill 2005–second reading debate continued
- Building and Construction Industry Improvement (Consequential and Transitional) Bill 2005–second reading debate continued
- Human Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2005–second reading agreed to and committee of the whole commenced–2 Democrat [amendments to be determined](#)

The following bills were passed

Without amendments

[These bills will now be assented to]

- National Residue Survey (Customs) Levy Amendment Bill 2005
- National Residue Survey (Excise) Levy Amendment Bill 2005

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

Delegated legislation

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

Motion to disallow regulations defeated

The Senate agreed *not to disallow* the Migration Amendment Regulations 2005 (No. 6), as contained in Select Legislative Instrument 2005 No. 171 and made under the *Migration Act 1958*

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

Committees

For scheduled [public committee hearings](#)

For [committee reports](#)

Reports tabled

- Australian personnel in Iraq–Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee
- Australian Technical Colleges (Flexibility in Achieving Australia's Skills Needs) Bill 2005–Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee
- Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Amendment Bill 2005–Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee
- Public Works Joint Committee—[several reports](#)
- Publications Committee—5th Report [report adopted]
- Scrutiny of Bills Committee—[Alert Digest No. 9](#) of 2005 and [8th report](#) of 2005 [contain assessments of bills on civil liberties and related grounds]
- Treaties Joint Committee—66th Report—Treaties tabled on 7 December 2004, 15 March and 11 May 2005

Membership

The Senate agreed to [various changes](#) to committee membership

Message from the House of Representatives reported

A message from the House of Representatives was reported advising that Mrs B Bishop would replace Mr Somlyay on the Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee

Reporting dates extended

- Chen Yonglin and Vivian Solon cases—Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—to report by 8 September 2005
- Mental Health Select Committee—to report by the Thursday of the second sitting week in March 2006

Notice of motion given

To hold a public meeting when the Senate is sitting

- Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee—6 September 2005 from 6pm—Economic impact of salinity in the Australian environment

To refer matters to a committee

- [Opal fuel roll out](#) implementation–Community Affairs References Committee–to report by 9 November 2005

Motions agreed to

The Senate agreed to motions about:

- [Northern Territory](#)–nuclear waste management–moved by Senator Crossin
- [World Breastfeeding Week](#)–moved by Senator Stott Despoja

Motions defeated

The Senate *did not agree* to motions about:

- [MV Tampa](#)–Asylum seekers–moved by Senator Bartlett
- [Ruling of the President](#)–dissent–moved by [Senator Allison](#)
- [Vivian Solon](#)–moved by Senator Nettle

Motion debated

The Senate debated motions about:

- [Ministerial responsibility](#)–Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs–moved by Senator Evans [discussion of matter of public importance–link to [first speaker](#)]
- Ministerial responsibility–Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs–moved by Senator Ludwig [link to [first speaker](#)]

Notices of motion

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

Orders for the production of documents

Orders with continuing effect

Departmental and agency contracts published on the internet

Statement of compliance for [two portfolios](#) were tabled [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]

Unproclaimed legislation

Details of unproclaimed Acts, together with statements of reasons for non-proclamation and a timetable for their operation, as at 31 July 2005 [Standing order 139(2) requires tabling annually after 31 August each year; Senate sessional order adopted as a [standing order](#), and [amended](#)]

Documents

The following documents were tabled:

- Auditor-General—Audit report no. 6 of 2005-06—Performance audit—Implementation of Job Network Employment services contract 3: Department of Employment and Workplace Relations; Centrelink
- [Clerk's documents](#) [disallowable instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]
- Department of the Senate—Travelling allowance payments to senators and members, 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005
- Department of the Senate—Travel expenditure, 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005
- Response to a Senate resolution about the [Earth Charter](#)—from the Premier of Victoria [resolution agreed to [21 June 2005](#)]

No petitions were received

No government documents were tabled

Also in the Senate yesterday

- Questions without notice and debate on issues arising in Question Time [link to [first question](#)]
- Senators [Nash](#) (NATS, NSW), [Parry](#) (Lib, Tas.) and [Wortley](#) (ALP, SA) made their first speeches
- [The President advised](#) the Senate that the address-in-reply had been presented to the Governor-General on 17 August 2005
- The President made [a statement](#) informing the Senate he would be absent from the Senate from 5 to 8 September 2005 to lead the Australian parliamentary delegation to the 51st Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Fiji
- Government documents, committee reports, government responses and Auditor-General's reports were discussed
- Adjournment debate

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