



Senate Daily Summary

Thursday, 14 February 2008

The Senate met from 9.30am until 7.06pm

The Senate will meet again on 11 March 2008. Senate committees will meet from 18 to 22 February next week to consider [additional estimates](#).

National Apology to the Stolen Generations

The motion to take note of the apology was further [debated](#) and agreed to.

Legislation

[Bills and related documents available on BillsNet <www.aph.gov.au/bills/index.htm>](http://www.aph.gov.au/bills/index.htm)

Bills considered

The following bills were introduced

- ❑ Aged Care Amendment (2008 Measures No. 1) Bill 2008 [passed by the House of Representatives on 13 February 2008]
- ❑ Appropriation (Drought and Equine Influenza Assistance) Bill (No. 1) 2007-2008 and a related bill [passed by the House of Representatives on 13 February 2008]
- ❑ Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Fair Bank and Credit Card Fees) Amendment Bill 2008 [private senator's bill]
- ❑ Marriage (Relationships Equality) Amendment Bill 2008 [private senator's bill]
- ❑ Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill 2008 [private senator's bill]
- ❑ Renewable Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Power Percentage) Bill 2008 [private senator's bill]
- ❑ Rights of the Terminally Ill (Euthanasia Laws Repeal) Bill 2008 [private senator's bill]
- ❑ Stolen Generation Compensation Bill 2008 [private senator's bill]

Bills restored to the Notice Paper

The Senate agreed to restore [25 private senators' bills](#) to the Notice Paper at the stage reached in the last Parliament.

The following bills were exempted from the cut-off order [to enable consideration in this period of sittings]

- ❑ Aged Care Amendment (2008 Measures No. 1) Bill 2008
- ❑ Appropriation (Drought and Equine Influenza Assistance) Bill (No. 1) 2007-2008 and a related bill

The following bills were passed

- ❑ Aged Care Amendment (2008 Measures No. 1) Bill 2008
- ❑ Appropriation (Drought and Equine Influenza Assistance) Bill (No. 1) 2007-2008 and a related bill

[These bills will now be assented to]

Notice of motion to introduce a bill

- ❑ National Commissioner for Children Bill 2008—notice given by Senator Bartlett [private senator's bill]

Committees

[For scheduled public committee hearings](#)

[For committee reports](#)

New inquiries

The Senate [referred](#) the Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Bill 2008 to the Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee to report by 28 April 2008.

Selection of Bills Committee report

The Senate adopted [report no. 1 of 2008](#) of the Selection of Bills Committee, and referred the Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007 to the Community Affairs Committee to report by 18 June 2008.

Reports relating to inquiries of the 41st Parliament

Recommendations made to the Senate to readopt certain inquiries not disposed of at the end of the 41st parliament, were agreed to as follows:

- ❑ [Community Affairs](#) Committee—
 - Inquiry into the cost of living pressures on older Australians—to report by 20 March 2008
 - Inquiry into mental health services in Australia—to report by 26 June 2008
- ❑ [Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade](#) Committee—
 - Inquiry into Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations—to report by 15 May 2008
 - Monitor progress on the implementation of reforms to Australia's military justice system and to report to the Senate on its findings
- ❑ [Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport](#) Committee—
 - Inquiry into climate change and the Australian agricultural sector—to report by 4 September 2008

Establishment of select committees

The Senate established the following [select committees](#):

- Agricultural and Related Industries
- Housing Affordability in Australia
- State Government Financial Management

Membership

The Senate agreed to the appointment of members to committees [see Journals entries nos [39](#) and [45](#)], and concurred with the [resolutions](#) of the House of Representatives relating to the appointment of joint committees.

Documents

Delegated legislation

See [Disallowance Alert](#) for a complete list of notices of motion to disallow (and outcomes)

- [Clerk's documents](#) were tabled [legislative instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]

Orders for the production of documents—Orders with continuing effect

Departmental and agency contracts published on the Internet

A statement of compliance for the Australian Research Council was tabled [Letters of advice about certain contracts valued at \$100 000 or more entered into by departments and agencies are [required to be tabled](#) twice a year]

Other documents tabled

- Auditor-General—[Audit report](#) no. 22 of 2007-08
- [A petition](#)

Documents discussed

Government documents, committee reports, government responses and Auditor-General's reports were discussed

Other business

[Questions without notice and issues arising during question time—first question](#)
[Adjournment debate—first speaker](#)

Motions agreed to

- [Myanmar](#)—moved by Senator Stott Despoja
- [United Nations](#) Framework Convention on Climate Change—moved by Senator Milne
- [Whaling](#) in the Southern Ocean—moved by Senator Siewert

