



# Senate Daily Summary

**Monday, 26 October 2009**

The Senate met from 12.30 pm until 10.13 pm

## **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

- Corporations Legislation Amendment (Financial Services Modernisation) Bill 2009 [see also bills passed] [passed by the House of Representatives on 15 September 2009]
- Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment (Re-registration of Providers and Other Measures) Bill 2009 [passed by the House of Representatives on 19 October 2009]
- Keeping Jobs from Going Offshore (Protection of Personal Information) Bill 2009 [private senator's bill]
- Long Service Leave Legislation Amendment (Telstra) Bill 2009 [passed by the House of Representatives on 21 October 2009]
- Statute Stocktake (Regulatory and Other Laws) Bill 2009 [passed by the House of Representatives on 17 September 2009]
- Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Competition and Consumer Safeguards) Bill 2009 [passed by the House of Representatives on 22 October 2009]
- Trade Practices Amendment (Australian Consumer Law) Bill 2009 [passed by the House of Representatives on 20 October 2009]

The following bills were passed

- Corporations Amendment (Improving Accountability on Termination Payments) Bill 2009–1 Senator Xenophon amendment agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the [amendment](#) made by the Senate]
- Corporations Legislation Amendment (Financial Services Modernisation) Bill 2009 [This bill will now be assented to]
- Federal Justice System Amendment (Efficiency Measures) Bill (No. 1) 2008–18 Government amendments agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the [amendments](#) made by the Senate]

- National Consumer Credit Protection Bill 2009–56 Government amendments agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the [amendments](#) made by the Senate]  
National Consumer Credit Protection (Fees) Bill 2009 [This bill will now be assented to]  
National Consumer Credit Protection (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Bill 2009–43 Government amendments agreed to [The House of Representatives will now consider the [amendments](#) made by the Senate]

### Notices of motion

To introduce private senators' bills

- Poker Machine (Reduced Losses) Bill 2009–notice given by Senator Xenophon
- Protecting Problem Gamblers Bill 2009–notice given by the Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)

Relating to the consideration of bills

- Any bills relating to the Government's 'new national broadband network'—[notice](#) given by the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (Senator Conroy)
- Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Competition and Consumer Safeguards) Bill 2009—[notice](#) given by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Minchin)

### Messages from the House of Representatives

- Federal Court of Australia Amendment (Criminal Jurisdiction) Bill 2008
- Fuel Quality Standards Amendment Bill 2009

—agreeing to the amendments made by the Senate [These bills will now be assented to]

### Bills assented to

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

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

## Committees

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

### Estimates

A [notice of motion](#) was given to schedule estimates hearings for 2010.

### Reports tabled

Reports on legislation

- [Education Services](#) for Overseas Students Amendment (Re-registration of Providers and Other Measures) Bill 2009–Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Legislation Committee
- Migration Amendment (Complementary Protection) Bill 2009–Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee—[Interim report](#), [Final report](#) and correction

- [Telecommunications](#) Legislation Amendment (Competition and Consumer Safeguards) Bill 2009–Environment, Communications and the Arts Legislation Committee [a [statement](#) was made in relation to the report]

### Other reports

- Economics References Committee–Government’s economic stimulus initiatives–[Interim report](#) [reporting date for the final report extended to 27 October 2009]
- Economics References Committee–GROCERYchoice website–[Interim report](#) [reporting date for the final report extended to 16 November 2009]
- Privileges Committee–[139th report](#)–Persons referred to in the Senate–Mr Alan Cummine [A [motion](#) to adopt the report was agreed to]

### **Government responses tabled**

- Housing Affordability in Australia Select Committee–A good house is hard to find: Housing affordability in Australia
- Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee–Personal Property Securities Bill 2009

### **Meetings during the sitting of the Senate**

The Senate authorised the following meetings to be held while the Senate is sitting:

- Finance and Public Administration References Committee–26 October 2009 from 1.50 pm to 2.00 pm–Private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1)
- Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee–27 October 2009 from 3.30 pm–Access to justice

### **Reporting dates extended**

The Senate extended reporting dates for the following inquiries:

- Environment, Communications and the Arts References Committee–
  - Forestry and mining operations on the Tiwi Islands–to report by 29 October 2009
  - Impact of mining operations on the Murray-Darling Basin–to report by 19 November 2009
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee–
  - Natural resource management and conservation challenges–to report by 18 December 2009
  - Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Income Support for Students) Bill 2009–to report by 27 October 2009

### **Notices of motion given**

#### **To extend a reporting deadline**

- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee–Rural and regional access to secondary and tertiary education opportunities–to report by 11 December 2009

### To hold meetings when the Senate is sitting

- Corporations and Financial Services Joint Committee—28 October 2009 from 5.00 pm—Financial products and services in Australia
- Economics References Committee—28 October 2009 from 5.00 pm—GROCERYchoice website
- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Joint Committee—28 October 2009 from 11.00 am—Australia’s trade and investment relations with Asia, the Pacific and Latin America
- Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee—29 October 2009 from 3.30 pm—Crimes Legislation Amendment (Serious and Organised Crime) Bill (No. 2) 2009
- National Capital and External Territories Joint Committee—
  - 28 October 2009 from 12.30 pm to 2.00 pm
  - 29 October 2009 from 10.00 am to noon
- Public Accounts and Audit Joint Committee—28 October, 18 November and 25 November 2009 from 11.45 am to 1.30 pm—Review of Auditor-General’s reports

### To refer matters to committees

- Economics References Committee—[Matters](#) relating to certain subsidiaries of the Reserve Bank of Australia—to report by 4 February 2010—notice given by the Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown)
- Environment, Communications and the Arts References Committee—[Matters](#) relating to the practices of Australia Post regarding the treatment of injured and ill workers—to report by 24 November 2009—notice given by the Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee—[Matters](#) relating to import restrictions on beef—to report by 30 November 2009—notice given by Senator Milne

## Documents

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### 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, including Governor-General’s Proclamations]

### Notices of motion given

#### *To disallow*

- National Health Security (SSBA Standards) Amendment Determination 2009 (No. 1), made under subsection 35(1) of the *National Health Security Act 2007* [[homepage](#)][—notice](#) given by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances

- Schedule 2 of the Fair Work Amendment Regulations 2009 (No. 1), as contained in Select Legislative Instrument 2009 No. 164 and made under the *Fair Work Act 2009* [[homepage](#)–[notice](#)] given by Senator Abetz

### *To approve a determination*

- Health Insurance (Extended Medicare Safety Net) Determination 2009, made under section 10B(1) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* [[homepage](#)–[notice](#)] given by the Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion (Senator Stephens)

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

#### Motions agreed to

- [Answers](#) to questions on notice nos 2043 and 2044 relating to macular degeneration [see Notice Paper, [27 October 2009](#), pages 43 and 44]—to be tabled by no later than 27 October 2009—moved by Senator Cormann
- [Documents](#) relating to the disposal of Telstra shares by the Future Fund—to be tabled by no later than 16 November 2009—moved by the Leader of the Family First Party (Senator Fielding)

#### Documents tabled

Documents were tabled in response to the following orders of the Senate:

- Aged care providers [order agreed to [19 August 2009](#)]
- Australian forest cover—statement in response [order agreed to [16 September 2009](#)]
- Chemotherapy treatment [order agreed to [18 August 2009](#)]
- National Broadband Network [order agreed to [13 May 2009](#)]
- Strategic review of Australian Government climate change policies [order agreed to [3 September 2008](#)]

#### Notices of motion given

The following notices of motion were given requiring Ministers to table documents:

- Minister for Climate Change and Water (Senator Wong) to table a copy of a letter relating to funding approval for stage 2 of the Northern Victorian Irrigation Renewal Project—by no later than noon on 29 October 2009—[notice](#) given by Senator Birmingham
- Minister representing the Treasurer (Senator Sherry) to table documents relating to the Frontier Economics report on the carbon pollution reduction scheme and any proposed modifications to the scheme—by no later than 4 November 2009—[notice](#) given by Senator Xenophon

#### Orders with continuing effect

##### *Departmental and agency appointments and vacancies*

Letters of advice for [various portfolios](#) were tabled [Lists of appointments made and existing vacancies are [required to be tabled](#) 7 days before the commencement of budget, supplementary budget and additional estimates hearings]

### *Departmental and agency grants*

Letters of advice for [various portfolios](#) were tabled [Lists of all grants approved are [required to be tabled](#) 7 days before the commencement of budget, supplementary budget and additional estimates hearings]

### *Indexed lists of departmental and agency files published on the Internet*

Statements of compliance for the Broadband, Communications and Digital Economy portfolio agencies and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) were tabled [Letters of advice about certain files created by departments and agencies are [required to be tabled](#) twice a year]

### **Documents tabled**

- Auditor-General–Audit reports nos 6 and 7 of 2009-10 [see Journals entries nos [30](#) and [38](#)]
- Australian National Audit Office–Report for 2008-09
- Australian Parliamentary Delegation–Report–Vietnam and the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum–17th annual meeting, Vientiane, Laos–5 to 15 January 2009 [a [motion](#) to take note of the report was agreed to]
- Department of Parliamentary Services–Report for 2008-09
- Department of the Senate–Report for 2008-09
- [Government documents](#)
- [2 petitions](#)

### **Ministerial statement tabled**

The Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion (Senator Stephens) tabled a ministerial statement about the Commonwealth's preparations for this bushfire season [a motion to take note of the statement was debated – [first speaker](#)]

## **Other business**

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

### **Matter of public importance discussed**

- [Border protection](#)–moved by Senator Parry [[first speaker](#)]

### **Questions on notice–Failure to provide answers**

Senator Cormann asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing (Senator Ludwig) why answers had not been provided to questions on notice nos 2043 and 2044 asked on 29 July 2009 relating to macular degeneration. [Senator Ludwig](#) indicated that answers would be provided. A motion to take note of the Minister's response was debated and agreed to [[first speaker](#)].

## Death of former senator

The Deputy President informed the Senate of the death, on 2 October 2009, of John (Jack) Gordon Evans, a senator for the state of Western Australia from 1983 to 1985. A [condolence motion](#) moved by the Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Evans) was passed.

## Days of meeting

A notice of motion was given to establish the days of meeting for 2010.

## Notices of motion

Notices of motion given today are available in the Senate Journals.

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## Online

The *Senate Daily Summary* is available on the Internet at [www.aph.gov.au/senate](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate)

It is issued by the Senate Table Office as a convenient summary of each day's proceedings in the Senate. For a complete account see the official record, the *Journals of the Senate*, on the Internet at <http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/pubs/index.htm>

## Related resources

The *Order of Business* (or ‘Senate Red’) and the *Dynamic Red* (which updates the *Order of Business* throughout the sitting day) are also available on the Internet at [www.aph.gov.au/senate](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate)

## Contact details

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