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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

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1 MEETING OF SENATE

The Senate met at 9.30 am. The President (Senator the Honourable Paul Calvert) took the chair and read prayers.

2 GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

The following government documents were tabled:

Customs Act 1901—Report for 2004-05 under subsection 233(6) on the conduct of customs officers under subsection 233(3A) of the Act.

Treaties—List of multilateral treaty actions under negotiation, consideration or review by the Australian Government as at August 2005.

3 GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S OPENING SPEECH—ADDRESS-IN-REPLY—PRESENTATION

The President reminded the Senate that His Excellency the Governor-General would receive the address-in-reply at Government House today at 5.30 pm.

4 DEFENCE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 2005

The Minister for Justice and Customs (Senator Ellison), at the request of the Minister for Defence (Senator Hill) and pursuant to notice, moved government business notice of motion no. 1—That the following bill be introduced:

A Bill for an Act to amend legislation relating to defence, and for related purposes.

Question put and passed.

Senator Ellison presented the bill and moved—That this bill may proceed without formalities and be now read a first time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

Senator Ellison moved—That this bill be now read a second time.

Explanatory memorandum: Senator Ellison tabled an explanatory memorandum relating to the bill.

Consideration of legislation: Pursuant to order, the debate was adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the first day in the next period of sittings.

5 CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

The Minister for Justice and Customs (Senator Ellison), pursuant to notice, moved government business notice of motion no. 2—That the provisions of paragraphs (5) to (8) of standing order 111 not apply to the following bills, allowing them to be considered during this period of sittings:

Australian Workplace Safety Standards Bill 2005

National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (Repeal, Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2005.

Question put and passed.

6 CUSTOMS AMENDMENT (EXTENSION OF IMPORT CUT-OVER TIME) BILL 2005

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Family and Community Services (Senator Patterson)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

No amendments to the bill were circulated and no senator required that it be considered in committee.

On the motion of the Minister for Justice and Customs (Senator Ellison) the bill was read a third time.

7 SKILLING AUSTRALIA'S WORKFORCE BILL 2005
SKILLING AUSTRALIA'S WORKFORCE (REPEAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS)
BILL 2005

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for the Environment and Heritage (Senator Ian Campbell)—That these bills be now read a second time—and on the amendment moved by Senator Nettle in respect of the *Skilling Australia's Workforce Bill 2005*—

At the end of the motion, add “but the Senate:

- (a) condemns the Government for introducing legislation that would undermine the quality of public provision of vocational education and training by:
 - (i) failing to recognise and reward the good will of Australia's Technical and Further Education (TAFE) teachers and support staff and their commitment to the best interests of their students and the community,
 - (ii) attempting to introduce a climate of fear and greed into TAFE colleges, based on both punitive industrial relations arrangements and the entirely impractical requirement for performance-based pay,
 - (iii) compromising the ability of TAFE teachers to work collaboratively by attempting to set them in competition with each other,
 - (iv) using TAFE as a beachhead in their assault on Australia's union movement,
 - (v) using TAFE as a pawn in their attempt to centralise decision making in Canberra and undermine the balance of power between the states and the Commonwealth,
 - (vi) substituting financial blackmail of the states for proper negotiation with all interested parties and consensus building,
 - (vii) playing out an agenda of revenge against the Australian Education Union and the New South Wales Teachers Federation for their well-founded criticisms of the Howard Government's failure to adequately fund public provision of vocational education and training, and

- (viii) further progressing their vision of a privatised vocational education and training sector, despite the massive failure of existing funding of private providers to effectively contribute to quality outcomes; and
- (b) calls on the Government to withdraw this bill because it is fundamentally flawed and will fail to address Australia's growing skills shortage, and instead to:
 - (i) develop arrangements for negotiation between the states, the Commonwealth and TAFE teachers and their union on funding of vocational education and training and on the coordination of policy setting in this sector,
 - (ii) recognise the current and potential future role that TAFE colleges and TAFE teachers and support staff play in wealth creation and in building Australia's cultural, social and democratic institutions,
 - (iii) recognise that the Commonwealth Government should play a key role in the funding of public provision of vocational education and training by restoring its per student funding of TAFE to 1996 levels in real terms and providing funding increases to match the growth in demand for vocational education and training over that period and for the next planning period, and
 - (iv) end the funding of private providers that compete with TAFE".

Debate resumed.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put and negatived.

Main question put and passed.

Bills read a second time.

The Senate resolved itself into committee for the consideration of the bills.

In the committee

Bills taken together and as a whole by leave.

Senator Wong moved the following amendment in respect of the Skilling Australia's Workforce Bill 2005:

Clause 12, page 11 (lines 22 to 27), omit paragraph (1)(b).

Debate ensued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The committee divided—

AYES, 31

Senators—

Allison	Forshaw	Milne	Siewert
Bartlett	Hogg	Moore	Stephens
Bishop	Hurley	Murray	Sterle
Campbell, George	Hutchins	Nettle	Stott Despoja
Carr	Kirk (Teller)	O'Brien	Webber
Conroy	Marshall	Polley	Wong
Crossin	McEwen	Ray	Wortley
Faulkner	McLucas	Sherry	

NOES, 35

Senators—

Abetz	Coonan	Humphries	Parry
Adams	Eggleston (Teller)	Johnston	Patterson
Barnett	Ellison	Joyce	Payne
Boswell	Ferguson	Kemp	Ronaldson
Brandis	Ferris	Lightfoot	Santoro
Calvert	Fielding	Mason	Troeth
Campbell, Ian	Fierravanti-Wells	McGauran	Trood
Chapman	Fifield	Minchin	Watson
Colbeck	Heffernan	Nash	

Question negatived.

The Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison) moved the following amendment in respect of the Skilling Australia's Workforce Bill 2005:

Clause 4, page 6 (line 3), omit "the States and industry", substitute "the States, industry and training providers".

Debate ensued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put and negatived.

Senator Murray, also on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Evans), moved the following amendment in respect of the Skilling Australia's Workforce Bill 2005:

Page 26, after clause 40 (after line 5), insert:

40A Accountability for advertising expenditure

- (1) Money appropriated by section 40 must not be expended for any public education or advertising project in relation to the *Commonwealth-State Agreement for Skilling Australia's Workforce* or any like-program established under this Act, where the cost of the project is estimated or contracted to be \$100,000 or more, unless a statement has been presented to the Senate in accordance with this section.
- (2) The statement must be presented by the minister to the Senate or, if the Senate is not sitting when the statement is ready for presentation, to the President of the Senate in accordance with the procedures of the Senate.
- (3) The statement must indicate in relation to the proposed project:
 - (a) the purpose and nature of the project; and
 - (b) the intended recipients of the information to be communicated by the project; and
 - (c) who authorised the project; and
 - (d) the manner in which the project is to be carried out; and
 - (e) who is to carry out the project; and
 - (f) whether the project is to be carried out under a contract; and
 - (g) whether such contract was let by tender; and
 - (h) the estimated or contracted cost of the project; and
 - (i) whether every part of the project conforms with the Audit and JCPAA guidelines; and
 - (j) if the project in any part does not conform with those guidelines, the extent of, and reasons for, the non-conformity.

- (4) In subsection (3), *Audit and JCPAA guidelines* means the guidelines set out respectively in Report No. 12 of 1998-99 of the Auditor-General, entitled *Taxation Reform: Community Education and Information Programme*, and Report No. 377 of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, entitled *Guidelines for government advertising*.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The committee divided—

AYES, 31

Senators—

Allison	Forshaw	McEwen	Sherry
Bartlett	Hogg	McLucas	Siewert
Bishop	Hurley	Milne	Stephens
Campbell, G (Teller)	Hutchins	Moore	Sterle
Carr	Kirk	Murray	Stott Despoja
Conroy	Ludwig	Nettle	Wong
Crossin	Lundy	Polley	Wortley
Fielding	Marshall	Ray	

NOES, 33

Senators—

Abetz	Eggleston	Kemp	Payne
Adams	Ellison	Lightfoot	Santoro
Barnett	Ferguson	Macdonald, Ian	Scullion
Boswell	Ferris	Mason	Troeth
Brandis	Fierravanti-Wells	McGauran (Teller)	Trood
Calvert	Fifield	Minchin	Watson
Campbell, Ian	Humphries	Nash	
Chapman	Johnston	Parry	
Colbeck	Joyce	Patterson	

Question negatived.

Bills agreed to.

Bills to be reported without amendments.

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Kirk) resumed the chair and the Chair of Committees (Senator Hogg) reported accordingly.

On the motion of the Minister for the Arts and Sport (Senator Kemp) the report from the committee was adopted and the bills read a third time.

8 HUMAN SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2005

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (Senator Coonan)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

At 12.45 pm: Debate was interrupted while Senator Stephens was speaking.

9 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Matters of public interest were discussed.

At 2 pm—

10 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were answered.

11 TELECOMMUNICATIONS—ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Senator Conroy moved—That the Senate take note of the answers given by the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (Senator Coonan) to questions without notice asked by Senators Fifield and Conroy today relating to telecommunications.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

12 LAW AND JUSTICE—GENETIC TESTING—PRIVACY—ANSWER TO QUESTION

Senator Stott Despoja moved—That the Senate take note of the answer given by the Minister for Justice and Customs (Senator Ellison) to a question without notice asked by Senator Stott Despoja today relating to genetic testing and privacy.

Question put and passed.

13 FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFERENCES COMMITTEE—CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP

The Deputy President (Senator Hogg) informed the Senate that the President had received a letter requesting a change in the membership of a committee.

The Minister for Justice and Customs (Senator Ellison), by leave, moved—That Senator Carr be discharged as a substitute member from the Finance and Public Administration References Committee for the committee's inquiry into the Regional Partnerships program.

Question put and passed.

14 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE REFERENCES COMMITTEE—EXTENSION OF TIME TO REPORT

The Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee (Senator Hutchins), by leave, moved—That the time for the presentation of the report of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee on matters specified in paragraph (c) of the terms of reference for the inquiry into the Chen Yonglin and Vivian Solon cases, and any related matters, be extended to 15 September 2005.

Question put and passed.

15 PETITION

The following petition, lodged with the Clerk by Senator Bartlett, was received:

From 62 petitioners, requesting that the Senate support the Defence Amendment (Parliamentary approval for Australian involvement in overseas conflicts) Bill 2003 [2004].

16 NOTICES

Senator Ludwig: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate expresses its deep concern that the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (Senator Vanstone) has failed to take responsibility for the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs despite the ongoing revelations and rising financial and human cost of the portfolio mismanagement. (*general business notice of motion no. 222*)

The Chair of the Select Committee on Mental Health (Senator Allison): To move on the next day of sitting—That the time for the presentation of the report of the Select Committee on Mental Health be extended to the Thursday of the second sitting week in March 2006. (*general business notice of motion no. 223*)

Senator Nettle: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

- (i) it has been 1 484 days since Ms Vivian Solon's unlawful deportation by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs and 94 days since she was discovered in a hospice in the Philippines,
- (ii) evidence suggests that numerous officers within the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Queensland Police knew that Ms Solon had been deported unlawfully but failed to correct the situation and bring her home, and
- (iii) the Australian Government:
 - (A) is refusing to guarantee that it will provide more than 6 months care for Ms Solon when she returns, and
 - (B) refuses to agree to arbitration should mediation not result in a compensation settlement; and

(b) calls on the Government to allow Ms Solon to come home to Australia and be with her children by:

- (i) extending the guarantee of care past 6 months,
- (ii) offering her brother a visa which entitles him to work rights or a carer's allowance and is not limited to 6 months, and
- (iii) agreeing to arbitration of a compensation settlement if 6 months of mediation does not result in a settlement. (*general business notice of motion no. 224*)

Senator Nettle: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

- (i) Friday, 26 August 2005 is the 4th anniversary of the rescue of 433 asylum seekers by the MV *Tampa*, and
- (ii) 4 years later, 32 asylum seekers remain on Nauru as part of the Government's cruel Pacific Solution; and

(b) calls on the Government to bring the remaining asylum seekers still on Nauru to the Australian mainland. (*general business notice of motion no. 225*)

Senator Crossin: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

- (i) in 2004 the Northern Territory Parliament passed the *Nuclear Waste, Storage and Disposal (Prohibition) Act 2004* which bans the establishment and operation of a nuclear waste management facility in the Northern Territory, and
- (ii) during the 2004 federal election the Minister for the Environment and Heritage (Senator Ian Campbell) gave an ‘absolute categorical assurance’ to Territorians that the Commonwealth is not pursuing any options anywhere on the mainland, including the Northern Territory, for a national nuclear waste facility; and

(b) calls on the Commonwealth Government to honour its election promise not to locate a nuclear waste facility in the Northern Territory. (*general business notice of motion no. 226*)

The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Watson): To move 15 sitting days after today—

No. 1—That the Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Amendment Orders 2005 (No. 1), made under regulation 3 of the Export Control (Orders) Regulations 1982, be disallowed.

No. 2—That the Income Tax Assessment Amendment Regulations 2005 (No. 2), as contained in Select Legislative Instrument 2005 No. 75 and made under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*, be disallowed.

No. 3—That the Modification Declaration No. 1, made under section 177 of the *Retirement Savings Account Act 1997*, be disallowed.

No. 4—That the Veterans’ Entitlements (Veterans’ Children Education Scheme – Scholarships, Statistics, MRCA) Instrument 2004 – Instrument No. R11/2004, made under subsection 117(1) of the *Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986*, be disallowed.

Senator Watson, by leave, made a statement relating to the notices of motion.

17 SELECTION OF BILLS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT NO. 8 OF 2005

The Chair of the Selection of Bills Committee (Senator Ferris) tabled the following report:

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

REPORT NO. 8 OF 2005

1. The committee met in private session on Tuesday, 16 August 2005 at 4.20 pm.
2. The committee resolved to recommend—That the following bills *not* be referred to committees:
 - Australian Workplace Safety Standards Bill 2005
 - Customs Amendment (Extension of Import Cut-over Time) Bill 2005
 - National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (Repeal, Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2005
 - Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Superannuation Safety and Other Measures) Bill 2005
 - Trade Practices Amendment (Personal Injuries and Death) Bill 2004.

The committee recommends accordingly.

3. The committee *deferred* consideration of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Bill 2005 from the meeting of 9 August 2005 to the next meeting.

Jeannie Ferris
Chair
17 August 2005.

Senator Ferris moved—That the report be adopted.

Question put and passed.

18 POSTPONEMENTS

The following items of business were postponed:

Business of the Senate notice of motion no. 1 standing in the name of Senator Bartlett for today, proposing the disallowance of the Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry (Export of Live-stock to Saudi Arabia) Order 2005, postponed till 18 August 2005.

General business notice of motion no. 208 standing in the name of Senator Stott Despoja for today, relating to World Breastfeeding Week, postponed till 18 August 2005.

General business notice of motion no. 221 standing in the name of Senator Stott Despoja for today, relating to genetic testing and privacy, postponed till 18 August 2005.

19 HEALTH—BETTER OUTCOMES IN MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE—PROPOSED ORDER FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENT

The Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 218—That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing, no later than 4.30 pm on Monday, 5 September 2005, a copy of the report from the review of the Better Outcomes in Mental Health Initiative.

Statements by leave: The Minister for Justice and Customs (Senator Ellison) and Senator Allison, by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 33

Senators—

Allison	Faulkner	McLucas	Stephens
Bartlett	Hogg	Milne	Sterle
Bishop	Hurley	Moore	Stott Despoja
Brown	Hutchins	Murray	Webber
Campbell, G (Teller)	Kirk	Nettle	Wong
Carr	Ludwig	Polley	Wortley
Conroy	Lundy	Ray	
Crossin	Marshall	Sherry	
Evans	McEwen	Siewert	

NOES, 36

Senators—			
Abetz	Eggleston	Kemp	Patterson
Adams	Ellison	Lightfoot	Payne
Barnett	Ferguson	Macdonald, Ian	Ronaldson
Brandis	Ferris (Teller)	Macdonald, Sandy	Santoro
Calvert	Fierravanti-Wells	Mason	Scullion
Campbell, Ian	Fifield	McGauran	Troeth
Chapman	Heffernan	Minchin	Trood
Colbeck	Johnston	Nash	Vanstone
Coonan	Joyce	Parry	Watson

Question negatived.

20 ENVIRONMENT—AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE SITES

Senator Milne, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 220—That the Senate—

(a) notes:

- (i) the loss of independence in the assessment of Australian heritage sites since the Australian Heritage Commission was absorbed into the Department of the Environment and Heritage,
- (ii) the failure of the Government to protect Australian heritage sites since that time, including Recherche Bay in Tasmania and the Burrup Peninsula in Western Australia, and
- (iii) the Government's willingness to manipulate the heritage assessment and funding process for political purposes; and

(b) calls on the Government to re-establish an independent statutory heritage body with authority to assess sites and allocate funding for heritage protection.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 8

Senators—			
Allison	Brown	Murray	Siewert (Teller)
Bartlett	Milne	Nettle	Stott Despoja

NOES, 45

Senators—			
Adams	Fierravanti-Wells	Mason	Santoro
Barnett	Fifield	McEwen	Scullion
Bishop	Hogg	McGauran	Stephens
Calvert	Humphries	McLucas	Sterle
Campbell, George	Hurley	Moore	Troeth
Carr	Hutchins	Nash	Trood
Chapman	Johnston	Parry	Watson
Colbeck	Joyce	Patterson	Webber
Crossin	Kirk	Payne	Wortley
Eggleston	Ludwig	Polley	
Ellison	Lundy	Ray	
Ferris (Teller)	Marshall	Ronaldson	

Question negatived.

**21 HEALTH—REGULATION OF NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICINAL PRODUCTS—
PROPOSED ORDER FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENT**

The Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 217—That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing, no later than 4.30 pm on Monday, 5 September 2005, a copy of the report provided by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu as part of their consultancy to assist in the development of a strategy to implement the recommendations made by the Australian National Audit Office in Audit Report no. 18 of 2004-05, *Regulation of non-prescription medicinal products: Department of Health and Ageing and Therapeutic Goods Administration*.

Statements by leave: The Minister for Justice and Customs (Senator Ellison) and Senators Allison, Ludwig, Brown and Ferris, by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put and negatived.

**22 DEFENCE—IRAQ—DEPLETED URANIUM—PROPOSED ORDER FOR PRODUCTION OF
DOCUMENT**

The Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 216—That there be laid on the table by the Minister for Defence, no later than 4.30 pm on Thursday, 18 August 2005, a copy of the Australian Defence Force report on the presence of depleted uranium in the Australian area of operations in Al Muthanna province in southern Iraq.

Question put and negatived.

**23 ENVIRONMENT—NORTHERN TERRITORY—URANIUM MINES—PROPOSED ORDER
FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS**

Senator Siewert, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 212—That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, no later than 3.30 pm on 18 August 2005, any legal advice which the Government has received from the Australian Government Solicitor or other source on the Commonwealth Government's authority to unilaterally approve uranium mines in the Northern Territory.

Question put and negatived.

24 INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS—HEALTH—PETROL SNIFFING

Senator Brown, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 209—That the Senate, noting the scourge of petrol sniffing in Indigenous communities, calls on the Government to introduce the comprehensive roll-out of non-sniffable Opal fuel throughout the central deserts region of Australia.

Document: The Minister for Justice and Customs (Senator Ellison) tabled the following document:

Indigenous Australians—Health—Petrol sniffing—Response to Senator Brown's notice of motion no. 209.

Question put and passed.

25 FOREIGN AFFAIRS—INDONESIA

Senator Stott Despoja, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 215—That the Senate notes:

- (a) the historic peace deal between the Indonesian Government and the Free Aceh Movement;
- (b) that the agreement calls for a withdrawal of non-organic Indonesian troops from the region;
- (c) the proposed establishment of an Aceh Monitoring Mission with the mandate to monitor the implementation of the commitments; and
- (d) that both sides have confirmed their commitment to a comprehensive, peaceful and sustainable solution to the conflict in Aceh.

Question put and passed.

26 COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—LEAVE TO MEET DURING SITTING

Senator Ferris, at the request of the Chair of the Community Affairs Legislation Committee (Senator Humphries) and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 210—That the Community Affairs Legislation Committee be authorised to hold a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Thursday, 18 August 2005, from 3.30 pm, to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the provisions of the Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Safety-nets) Bill 2005.

Question put and passed.

27 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT—JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE—LEAVE TO MEET DURING SITTING

Senator Ferris, at the request of Senator Watson and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 211—That the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit be authorised to hold a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Thursday, 18 August 2005, from 10.45 am to 11.45 am, to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into aviation security in Australia.

Question put and passed.

28 FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFERENCES COMMITTEE—EXTENSION OF TIME TO REPORT

Senator George Campbell, at the request of the Chair of the Finance and Public Administration References Committee (Senator Forshaw) and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 213—That the time for the presentation of the report of the Finance and Public Administration References Committee on the Gallipoli Peninsula be extended to 15 September 2005.

Question put and passed.

29 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY—NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

Senator Stott Despoja, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 214—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

- (i) 13 August to 21 August 2005 is National Science Week, a week designated to celebrate and promote the role of science in everyday life and in our future, and
- (ii) the theme for 2005 is ‘Energy: Future Challenges’; and

(b) congratulates the finalists of the 2005 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes for their perseverance and commitment to helping the community through their critical discoveries and innovative designs.

Question put and passed.

30 URGENCY MOTION—MULTICULTURALISM

The President informed the Senate that he had received a letter from Senator Bartlett advising that today he intended to move—That, in the opinion of the Senate, the following is a matter of urgency:

The need for the Senate and all political leaders to express strong support for multiculturalism in Australia as playing a key role in the battle against extremism, in light of the increased public vilification and antagonism towards Muslims and other ethnic communities in Australia.

The proposal was supported by 4 senators.

Senator Bartlett moved the motion.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

31 ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to order, the Senate adjourned at 5 pm till Thursday, 18 August 2005 at 9.30 am.

32 ATTENDANCE

Present, all senators.

HARRY EVANS
Clerk of the Senate