

2002-04

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

THE SENATE

NOTICE PAPER

No. 137

WEDNESDAY, 24 MARCH 2004

The Senate meets at 9.30 am

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Notifications prefixed by an () appear for the first time.*

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE

Notice of Motion

Notice given 23 March 2004

- *1 **Senator Mackay:** To move—That the following matter be referred to the Committee of Privileges:

Whether any false or misleading evidence was given by witnesses representing Telstra in relation to the matter of the network fault rate and deterioration of the network, and whether any contempt was committed in that regard.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Notices of Motion

Notice given 4 December 2003

- 1 **Senator Conroy:** To move—That Schedule 3, items [1] to [4], [6], [8] and [9] of the Corporations Amendment Regulations 2003 (No. 8), as contained in Statutory Rules 2003 No. 282 and made under the *Corporations Act 2001*, be disallowed.

Last day for resolving.**

- ** *Indicates sitting days remaining, including today, within which the motion must be disposed of or the Schedule will be deemed to have been disallowed.*

Notice of motion altered on 23 March 2004 pursuant to notice of intention and standing order 77.

Notice given 10 March 2004

- 2 **Senator Forshaw:** To move—That the following matters be referred to the Community Affairs References Committee for inquiry and report by 31 August 2004:

- (a) the adequacy of staffing levels in residential aged care facilities;
- (b) the impact of staffing levels on the care and safety of residents in residential aged care facilities;
- (c) the adequacy of qualification levels and ongoing training of staff in the aged care system, both residential and community care;
- (d) the effectiveness of the current regulatory framework in ensuring adequate staffing levels and proper standards of care in the aged care industry both residential and community care;
- (e) the performance and effectiveness of the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency in assessing and monitoring care, health and safety and staffing levels in aged care facilities;
- (f) the performance of the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency in identifying best practice and providing information, education and training to aged care facilities;
- (g) the impact on public hospitals of the shortage of nursing home beds; and

- (h) the appropriateness of accommodating young people with disabilities in aged care facilities and the effect this has on young people with disabilities and on the availability of aged care beds for elderly Australians.

Order of the Day

- 1 **Community Affairs Legislation Committee**
Economics Legislation Committee
Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee
Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee
Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Reports to be presented in respect of the 2003-04 additional estimates.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Notices of Motion

Notice given 10 March 2004

- 1 **Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads (Senator Ian Campbell):** To move—That the provisions of paragraphs (5), (6) and (8) of standing order 111 not apply to the following bills, allowing them to be considered during this period of sittings:

Greater Sunrise Unitisation Agreement Implementation Bill 2004
Customs Tariff Amendment (Greater Sunrise) Bill 2004.

Day for bringing on motion changed pursuant to standing order 77 on 22 March 2004.

Notice given 22 March 2004

- 2 **Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads (Senator Ian Campbell):** To move—That the provisions of paragraphs (5), (6) and (8) of standing order 111 not apply to the following bills, allowing them to be considered during this period of sittings:

Higher Education Legislation Amendment Bill 2004
Sex Discrimination Amendment (Teaching Profession) Bill 2004
Telecommunications (Interception) Amendment Bill 2004.

Orders of the Day

- 1 **Age Discrimination Bill 2003**
Age Discrimination (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2003
In committee—Age Discrimination Bill 2003 (23 March 2004).

- 2 **Migration Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2002**—(Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Ellison)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer (Senator Coonan), 23 March 2004*).
- 3 **Textile, Clothing and Footwear Strategic Investment Program Amendment Bill 2004**—(Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, Senator Ian Campbell)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*10 March 2004*).
(*Bill exempted on 23 March 2004 from the provisions of paragraphs (5), (6) and (8) of standing order 111—see Orders of the Senate—Legislation*)
- 4 **Postal Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2003**—(Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, Senator Ian Campbell)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Mackay, 1 March 2004*).
- 5 **Telstra (Transition to Full Private Ownership) Bill 2003 [No. 2]**—(Minister for the Arts and Sport, Senator Kemp)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Crossin, 22 March 2004*).
- 6 **Australian Federal Police and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2003 [2004]**—(*Senate bill*)—(Minister for Defence, Senator Hill)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*4 December 2003*).
- 7 **Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 2) 2003-2004**
Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2003-2004
Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2003-2004—(Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Ellison)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*8 March 2004*).
(*Bills exempted on 23 March 2004 from the provisions of paragraphs (5), (6) and (8) of standing order 111—see Orders of the Senate—Legislation*)
- 8 **Issues from the Advance to the Finance Minister as a final charge for the year ended 30 June 2003**
Consideration in committee of the whole (*11 February 2004*).
- 9 **Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Bill 2003**
Military Rehabilitation and Compensation (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2003—(Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, Senator Ian Campbell)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Mackay, 1 March 2004*).
- 10 **Privacy Amendment Bill 2004**—(Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer, Senator Coonan)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Crossin, 9 March 2004*).
- 11 **Energy Grants (Cleaner Fuels) Scheme Bill 2003**
Energy Grants (Cleaner Fuels) Scheme (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003—(Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, Senator Ian Campbell)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Special Minister of State (Senator Abetz), 10 March 2004*).

- 12 **Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Family Law) Bill 2002**—(*Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, Senator Ian Campbell*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Mackay, 15 May 2003*).
- 13 **Corporations (Fees) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003**
Corporate Law Economic Reform Program (Audit Reform and Corporate Disclosure) Bill 2003—(*Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, Senator Ian Campbell*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Mackay, 1 March 2004*).
- 14 **Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Choice of Superannuation Funds) Bill 2003**—(*Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, Senator Vanstone*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Buckland, 10 February 2004*).
- 15 **Health Legislation Amendment (Medicare and Private Health Insurance) Bill 2003**—(*Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, Senator Ian Campbell*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Mackay, 17 June 2003*).
- 16 **Communications Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003**—(*Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, Senator Ian Campbell*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Moore, 19 August 2003*).
- 17 **Workplace Relations Amendment (Protecting the Low Paid) Bill 2003**—(*Special Minister of State, Senator Abetz*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Crossin, 6 March 2003*).
- 18 **Taxation Laws Amendment (Superannuation Contributions Splitting) Bill 2003**—(*Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, Senator Ian Campbell*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*18 September 2003*).
- 19 **Family and Community Services (Closure of Student Financial Supplement Scheme) Bill 2003**
Student Assistance Amendment Bill 2003
Adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—That this bill be now read a second time.
And on the amendment moved by Senator Nettle—At the end of the motion, add “but the abolition of the Student Financial Supplement Scheme be opposed until such time as the Commonwealth moves to improve student financial support measures to meet the need this scheme currently addresses and that the Commonwealth move to improve current financial support measures in the following ways:
- (a) that the Commonwealth Government replace Youth Allowance and Austudy with one simple payment that incorporates the following measures:
 - (i) the age of independence be reduced to 18,
 - (ii) the eligibility criteria should not be based upon previous personal earnings,

- (iii) the personal income threshold (currently set at \$236 per fortnight, without affecting benefit payments) should be increased to a more realistic figure,
- (iv) the parental income test cut-off threshold should be increased to allow greater access to higher education,
- (v) that same sex couples be recognised as de facto relationships for the purposes of income support measures including student income support,
- (vi) all postgraduate awards be redefined as ‘approved courses’ for the purposes of rent assistance,
- (vii) as a minimum, students be provided with benefits consistent with the Henderson poverty line, and
- (viii) that these benefits be indexed to the Consumer Price Index, with reference to the Henderson poverty line; and

further, that Abstudy be maintained as a separate scheme, and that within this payment structure:

- (b) all supplementary benefits, allowances and payments available under the Abstudy scheme be maintained;
- (c) all payment structures be endorsed and approved by Indigenous community organisations;
- (d) any future rationalisation of the Abstudy allowances only occur after sustained and authentic dialogue with Indigenous communities across Australia; and
- (e) the changes made to Abstudy in the 1997-98 Commonwealth Budget should be reversed”—(*Minister for Family and Community Services (Senator Patterson), in continuation, 26 November 2003*).

20 Australian Human Rights Commission Legislation Bill 2003—(*Special Minister of State, Senator Abetz*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Mackay, 11 August 2003*).

21 Broadcasting Services Amendment (Media Ownership) Bill 2002 [No. 2]—(*Minister for Finance and Administration, Senator Minchin*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Buckland, 2 December 2003*).

22 Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 7) 2003

Consideration in committee of the whole of message no. 428 from the House of Representatives (*15 October 2003*).

23 Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (Further Simplification of International Payments) Bill 2002—(*Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation, Senator Ian Macdonald*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Mackay, 13 March 2002*).

24 Superannuation (Government Co-contribution for Low Income Earners) Bill 2002

Superannuation Legislation Amendment Bill 2002

Adjourned debate on the motion of Minister for the Arts and Sport (Senator Kemp)—That these bills be now read a second time.

And on the amendment moved by Senator Sherry in respect of the *Superannuation Legislation Amendment Bill 2002*—At the end of the motion, add “but the Senate is of the opinion that the bill should be withdrawn and redrafted to:

- (a) ensure that the proposed surcharge tax reduction to high-income earners, the splitting of superannuation contributions and the closure of the public sector funds do not proceed; and
- (b) provide for a fairer contributions tax cut that will boost retirement incomes for all superannuation fund members to assist in preparing the nation for the ageing population”.

And on the amendment moved by Senator Cherry in respect of the *Superannuation (Government Co-contribution for Low Income Earners) Bill 2002*—At the end of the motion, add “but the Senate notes that analysis provided to the Select Committee on Superannuation shows that extending the co-contribution to workers on average earnings would have a significant positive effect on national savings, and that this could be funded by better targeting of the Government’s superannuation measures” (*adjourned, Special Minister of State (Senator Abetz), 18 November 2002*).

25 **Budget statement and documents 2003-04**

Adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Finance and Administration (Senator Minchin)—That the Senate take note of the statement and documents (*adjourned, Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Boswell), 15 May 2003*).

26 **Budget statement and documents 2002-03**

Adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Finance and Administration (Senator Minchin)—That the Senate take note of the statement and documents (*adjourned, Special Minister of State (Senator Abetz), 16 May 2002*).

ORDERS OF THE DAY RELATING TO COMMITTEE REPORTS AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSES AND AUDITOR-GENERAL’S REPORTS

Order of the Day relating to Committee Reports and Government Responses

***1 Economics Legislation Committee—Report—Provisions of the Greater Sunrise Unitisation Agreement Implementation Bill 2004 and the Customs Tariff Amendment (Greater Sunrise) Bill 2004**

Adjourned debate on the motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Brandis)—That the Senate take note of the report (*Senator Brandis, in continuation, 23 March 2004*).

2 Community Affairs References Committee—Report—A hand up not a hand out: Renewing the fight against poverty

Adjourned debate on the motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Hutchins)—That the Senate take note of the report (*adjourned, Senator Greig, 11 March 2004*).

GENERAL BUSINESS

Notices of Motion

Notice given 14 February 2002

17 **Senator Tierney:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes the serious problem of overcrowding in New South Wales public schools, especially when compared with other states across the country;
- (b) acknowledges the shameful results of a New South Wales Teachers Federation survey showing 20 per cent of all classes in each of the first 3 years of primary school being over the Carr Government's own limit, and 32 per cent of all kindergarten classes exceeding suggested class sizes during 2001;
- (c) condemns the Carr Government for putting New South Wales children's education at risk by increasing class numbers and not reducing them as other states are now doing;
- (d) congratulates the Howard Government for increasing funding to New South Wales government schools by 5.2 per cent in 2001, as opposed to Premier Carr's paltry 2.6 per cent; and
- (e) recognises the low priority given to education by the Carr Government, as evidenced by the fact that the amount spent on education as a percentage of total state budget has dropped from 25.5 per cent to 22 per cent in the 7 years since Labor came to power in New South Wales.

Notice given 11 March 2002

23 **Senator McGauran:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
 - (i) it is the 100th anniversary of the execution of Harry 'Breaker' Morant and Peter Handcock, killed by firing squad during the Boer War for following the orders, take no prisoners,
 - (ii) the court case held for Morant and Handcock was a sham, set up by Lord Kitchener, the giver of the orders Morant and Handcock followed,
 - (iii) the injustice to Breaker and Handcock has plagued Australia's conscience since their execution on 27 February 1902,
 - (iv) in 1902 the then Federal Parliamentarian and later first Governor-General of Australia, Issac Issacs, raised the matter of the execution in Parliament stating that this issue was agitating the minds of the people of this country in an almost unprecedented degree, and questioned the validity of the decision,
 - (v) the reason we need to go back 100 years to now right this wrong, is because Breaker Morant is one of the fathers of our ANZAC tradition; a friend of Banjo Patterson and an inspiration for much of his poetry and described as a man of great courage who would never betray a mate; and a man of whom many of the young ANZACs in World War I had heard and on whom they modelled themselves, and

- (vi) Lord Kitchener was the Commander-in-Chief of the British Military who made the decision to commit troops to Gallipoli and is responsible for that disastrous campaign;
- (b) calls on the Government to petition directly the British Government for a review of the case, with the aim to quash the harsh sentence of death for Harry 'Breaker' Morant and Peter Handcock; and
- (c) take action to include the names of these two Australians on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial.

30 **Senator Brown:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that the Ministerial Code in the United Kingdom includes a system which deals with acceptance of appointments for ministers after leaving office; and
- (b) calls on the Government to:
 - (i) implement an advisory committee on business appointments, from which a minister would be required to seek advice before accepting business appointments within 5 years from the date from which he or she ceased to be a minister, and
 - (ii) ban any minister from taking an appointment that is directly related to his or her portfolio for 5 years from the date of resignation.

Notice given 16 May 2002

78 **Senator Tierney:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that south-eastern Australia is the most fire prone region in the world;
- (b) commends the support provided by the Howard Government to New South Wales in January 2002, in particular, the provision of aerial fire fighting equipment;
- (c) expresses its concern that the state government is whitewashing the causes of the bushfire catastrophe of Christmas 2001 by just blaming pyromaniacs during the current bushfires inquiry;
- (d) calls on the New South Wales Government to give serious consideration to the evidence of State Forests of NSW, which believes that inadequate back-burning was the primary cause of the devastating fires;
- (e) rejects calls from the Nature Conservation Council to restrict hazard reduction;
- (f) calls on the Carr Government to allow non-government committee members to receive witnesses' submissions without having to first request them;
- (g) encourages the inquiry to reach a conclusion based on evidence and not party politics resulting from pressure from extreme green groups; and
- (h) hopes that the lessons learned from the bushfire inquiry will be shared to other state governments so all Australians can avoid such an unnecessary disaster.

Notice given 26 June 2002

112 **Senator Ridgeway:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:

- (i) the week beginning 24 June 2002 is Drug Action Week, aimed at generating community awareness about drug and alcohol abuse and the solutions being used to tackle these issues,
 - (ii) each day of Drug Action Week highlights a different theme and the theme on 27 June 2002 is Indigenous issues,
 - (iii) the misuse of alcohol and other drugs has long been linked to the deep levels of emotional and physical harm suffered by Indigenous communities since the colonisation of Australia,
 - (iv) alcohol and tobacco consumption rates continue to remain high in the Indigenous population, against declining rates in the general population, and the increasing use of heroin in urban, regional and rural Indigenous communities is also of particular concern,
 - (v) substance misuse is probably the biggest challenge facing Indigenous communities today, as it affects almost everybody either directly or indirectly and is now the cause as well as the symptom of much grief and loss experienced by Indigenous communities, and
 - (vi) the demand for the services of existing Indigenous-controlled drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres far exceeds the current level of supply;
- (b) acknowledges the essential role of Indigenous community-controlled health services in providing long-term, culturally-appropriate solutions for substance abuse; and
- (c) calls on the Government to:
- (i) fund the national substance misuse strategy, developed by the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, which is designed to build the necessary capacity within the Indigenous health sector so communities can address their health and well-being needs in a holistic and culturally-appropriate manner, and
 - (ii) improve coordination between Commonwealth, state, territory and local governments on these issues and ensure this facilitates greater Indigenous control over the development and implementation of all health programs.

Notice given 24 September 2002

184 **Senator Stott Despoja:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes:
- (i) the commitment of the Government and Mr John Loy, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA), to a demonstrated store for radioactive waste by 2005,
 - (ii) the commitment of the Government and Mr Loy to a second spent fuel reprocessing pathway for spent fuel from the Lucas Heights reactor,
 - (iii) the commitment in the Lucas Heights environmental impact statement (EIS), EIS supplementary report and EIS assessment report to a radioactive waste store by 2005,
 - (iv) the ARPANSA site licence assessment regarding a potential operating licence at Lucas Heights that, 'A license to operate would not be issued by ARPANSA without there being clear and definite

means available for the ultimate disposal of radioactive waste and spend nuclear fuel’,

- (v) that the recent comments by Mr Loy on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation’s *PM* program indicating that the ‘new’ deadline for a store is now 2025 and that provision for second country reprocessing is no longer required are in direct contradiction to previous commitments, and
- (vi) that it recently passed a second reading amendment that:
 - (A) noted the view of the CEO of ARPANSA that arrangements for taking the spent fuel and turning it into a reasonable waste form need to be absolutely clear before the new reactor at Lucas Heights commences operation, and there needs to be clear progress on siting a store for the waste that returns to Australia, and
 - (B) expressed its opinion that until all matters relating to safety, storage and transportation of nuclear materials associated with the new reactor at Lucas Heights are resolved, no operating licence related to the new reactor at Lucas Heights should be issued by ARPANSA; and
- (b) calls on the CEO of ARPANSA to:
 - (i) reaffirm commitments made to the Australian people as part of the EIS process, and
 - (ii) act in conformity with the Senate’s second reading amendment.

Notice given 17 October 2002

215 **Senator Tierney:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) recognises that the Federal Coalition Government has increased investment in education each year, with \$2.4 billion being provided for public schools in 2002-03, an increase of 5.7 per cent over the past year and a 52 per cent increase since 1996;
- (b) expresses alarm that New South Wales state government spending on education currently lags \$318 million a year below the Australian national average;
- (c) notes that New South Wales primary schools have the worst student-to-teacher ratios in Australia and some of the largest class sizes in the country;
- (d) further notes that the Vinson report into public education demonstrates the under resourcing of the public education system in New South Wales by the Carr Government; and
- (e) congratulates New South Wales Opposition Leader, John Brogden, who vowed on 24 September 2002 to spend more on public schools and backed the need to reduce class sizes.

Notice given 18 March 2003

393 **Senator Stott Despoja:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes, with concern, the serious hardship facing coffee producers of the developing world as a result of low coffee prices and, in particular, that:
 - (i) many coffee farmers are being forced to abandon their livelihoods and sell their land at a loss,
 - (ii) the financial strain on coffee farming families reduces their capacity to meet their basic needs, including schooling, food and medicines,

- (iii) a lack of money in coffee-producing communities, together with overburdened health-care systems, threatens the stability of already vulnerable economies, and
- (iv) intensive farming methods, adopted by reason of financial necessity, seriously damage the natural environment;
- (b) acknowledges the financial support provided by the Government through AusAid to rural development and other assistance for coffee producing nations; and
- (c) requests that the Government provide further political and economic support for:
 - (i) the International Coffee Organisation's Coffee Quality Scheme, which aims to restrict coffee exportation on the basis of quality,
 - (ii) the destruction of lowest quality coffee stocks, and
 - (iii) direct poverty alleviation programs targeted at coffee producing communities.

Notice given 18 August 2003

542 **Senator Mackay:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
 - (i) the Special Minister of State (Senator Abetz) has launched a petition in Tasmania calling on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) to overturn its decision to cancel the program *Behind the News*, and
 - (ii) this decision by the ABC was taken in response to insufficient funding to allow the ABC to deliver its full range of services; and
- (b) given the Government's direct responsibility for the lack of funding, calls on Senator Abetz to more usefully use his ministerial influence to lobby his colleagues, the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (Senator Alston) and the Prime Minister (Mr Howard), to provide sufficient funding to the ABC to allow the show to be continued.

Notice given 8 September 2003

569 **Senator Brown:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes the current impasse in negotiations between Papua New Guinea and Australia regarding Australian aid to Papua New Guinea;
- (b) recognises the importance of ensuring that Australia's aid to Papua New Guinea is appropriately allocated and administered, and that it is subject to proper accountability mechanisms;
- (c) notes that there is widespread concern in Papua New Guinea regarding evidence that 80 per cent of Australian aid is ultimately paid to Australian consulting companies, construction companies and individuals earning the aid the name 'Boomerang aid'; and
- (d) calls on the Australian Government:
 - (i) to ensure that there is a review of Australia's aid to Papua New Guinea, incorporating an assessment of Australian policies regarding the allocation of such aid, as well as any issues associated with its administration by Papua New Guinea, and
 - (ii) to ensure a bilateral relationship with Papua New Guinea founded upon respect for Papua New Guinea's interests and the democratic

rights of its people, and to guard against any form of undue pressure in its dealings with Papua New Guinea.

Notice of motion altered on 10 September 2003 pursuant to standing order 77.

Notice given 10 September 2003

575 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Faulkner):** To move—That the Senate notes with grave concern:

- (a) the leaking of an Office of National Assessment (ONA) document dated December 2002 and classified top-secret AUSTEO;
- (b) that material from the ONA classified report was published in an article by Mr Andrew Bolt in the *Herald Sun* of 23 June 2003;
- (c) the failure to ensure immediate and thorough investigation of the circumstances surrounding this unprecedented leak; and
- (d) the failure of the Prime Minister (Mr Howard) and other ministers to fully explain their involvement in this matter.

Notice given 16 September 2003

604 **Senator Brown:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes reports in the British press that the United States of America and Britain have decided to delay indefinitely the publication of a full report into Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) because the efforts of the Iraq survey group, an Anglo-American team of 1 400 scientists, have so far failed in its task to locate WMDs; and
- (b) calls on the Prime Minister (Mr Howard) to apologise to the Australian people for misleading them on the reasons for going to war with Iraq.

Notice given 13 October 2003

646 **Senator Allison:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes:
 - (i) that the following motion was adopted unanimously at the National Party of Australia Federal Conference on Sunday, 12 October 2003: 'That as a matter of urgency, this Conference of the National Party of Australia:
 - (a) Endorses the strong Federal Coalition policy on Development incentives for the ethanol industry as taken to the last Federal Election,
 - (b) Supports a 10 year excise exemption for ethanol,
 - (c) Endorses a mandate of 10% Australian-produced ethanol content for fuel sold in Australia to achieve the Federal Government's policy of a target of 350 million litre production of biofuel by 2010, and
 - (d) Notes the ALP and minor parties opposition to ethanol, including their opposition to mandating 10% Australian produced ethanol content for fuel sold in Australia',
 - (ii) the significant benefits derived from alternative fuels in terms of air quality, public health, regional development and energy security, and
 - (iii) the Government's May 2003 budget decision to impose an excise on alternative fuels from 2008;

- (b) corrects the National Party motion with respect to paragraph (d), pointing out that the Australian Democrats strongly support alternative fuels, including ethanol, and made a submission in September 2003 to Cabinet calling for targets to be set to increase alternative fuel use in Australia; and
- (c) urges the Government to:
 - (i) reverse its budget decision and not impose an excise on ethanol, other biofuels, LPG, CNG and LNG for at least 10 years, and
 - (ii) conduct a review of the timetable and incentives required for industry to meet a mandated level of 10 per cent ethanol content in petrol.

Notice given 15 October 2003

657 **Senator Conroy:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that the Government's draft Corporate Law Economic Reform Program (Audit Reform and Corporate Disclosure) Bill 2003 needs to go further in order to create a robust regulatory framework which firstly, ensures that boards are accountable and secondly, ensures that shareholders are empowered;
- (b) condemns the Government for its failure to crack down on corporate greed; and
- (c) expresses its concern that the self-regulatory approach of the Howard Government in relation to executive remuneration has failed.

Notice of motion altered on 15 October 2003 pursuant to standing order 77.

Notice given 27 October 2003

671 **Senator Ray:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) rejects the intemperate anti-Semitic remarks made by outgoing Malaysian Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir; and
- (b) calls on the incoming Prime Minister of Malaysia to repudiate Dr Mahathir's anti-Jewish tirade.

Notice given 24 November 2003

692 **Senator Ludwig:** To move—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to amend the *Crimes Act 1914*, and for related purposes. ***Racial and Religious Hatred Bill 2003.***

Notice given 25 November 2003

708 **Senator Brown:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes the clear fell logging for woodchips in Tasmania's Styx Valley, which has the world's tallest hardwood forests and is habitat for Commonwealth-listed rare and endangered species such as the spotted-tailed quoll, Tasmanian wedge tailed eagle and white goshawk; and
- (b) calls on the Government to:
 - (i) protect such habitats, and
 - (ii) review the potential of the valley to provide more jobs and long-term local investment through tourism.

Notice given 26 November 2003

721 **Senator Harris:** To move—

- (1) That a select committee, to be known as the Select Committee on the Lindeberg Grievance, be appointed to inquire into and report by 31 March 2004 on the following matters:
 - (a) whether any false or misleading evidence was given to the Select Committee on Public Interest Whistleblowing, the Select Committee on Unresolved Whistleblower Cases or the Committee of Privileges in respect of the matters considered in its 63rd and 71st reports; and whether any contempt was committed in that regard, having regard to previous inquiries by Senate committees relating to the shredding of the Heiner documents, the fresh material that has subsequently been revealed by the Dutney Memorandum, and Exhibits 20 and 31 tabled at the Forde Commission of Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions, and any other relevant evidence; and
 - (b) the implications of this matter for measures which should be taken:
 - (i) to prevent the destruction and concealment by government of information which should be available in the public interest,
 - (ii) in relation to the protection of children from abuse, and
 - (iii) for the appropriate protection of whistleblowers.
- (2) That the committee consist of 7 senators, 3 nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 2 nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, 1 nominated by the Leader of the Australian Democrats, 1 nominated by the One Nation Party.
- (3) That the committee may proceed to the dispatch of business notwithstanding that not all members have been duly nominated and appointed and notwithstanding any vacancy.
- (4) That:
 - (a) the chair of the committee be elected by and from the members of the committee;
 - (b) in the absence of agreement on the selection of a chair, duly notified to the President, the allocation of the chair be determined by the Senate;
 - (c) the deputy chair of the committee be elected by and from the members of the committee immediately after the election of the chair;
 - (d) the deputy chair act as chair when there is no chair or the chair is not present at a meeting; and
 - (e) in the event of the votes on any question before the committee being equally divided, the chair, or deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
- (5) That the quorum of the committee be a majority of the members of the committee.
- (6) That the committee and any subcommittee have power to send for and examine persons and documents, to move from place to place, to sit in public or in private, notwithstanding any prorogation of the Parliament or dissolution of the House of Representatives, and have leave to report from time to time its proceedings and the evidence taken, and such interim recommendations as it may deem fit.

- (7) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any such subcommittee any of the matters which the committee is empowered to consider, and that the quorum of the subcommittee be a majority of the members appointed to the subcommittee.
- (8) That the committee be provided with all necessary staff, facilities and resources and be empowered to appoint investigative staff and persons, including senior counsel, with specialist knowledge for the purposes of the committee, with the approval of the President.
- (9) That the committee have access to, and have power to make use of, the evidence and records of the Select Committee on Public Interest Whistleblowing, the Select Committee on Unresolved Whistleblower Cases and the Committee of Privileges in respect of its 63rd and 71st reports.
- (10) That the committee be empowered to print from day to day such documents and evidence as may be ordered by it, and a daily Hansard be published of such proceedings as take place in public.

Notice of motion altered on 11 February 2004 pursuant to standing order 77.

Notice given 2 December 2003

- 740 **Senator Brown:** To move—That the Senate calls on the Prime Minister (Mr Howard) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr Latham) to promote reform policies to halt logging of the Tarkine, which contains Australia's largest temperate rainforest.

Notice given 3 December 2003

- 748 **Senator Brown:** To move—That the Senate calls on the Government to halt the destruction caused by clear fell logging for woodchip in the old-growth forest of Tasmania's north-east highlands, including the Blue Tier.

Notice given 1 March 2004

- 770 **Senator Allison:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
 - (i) 27 February 2004 was Saharawi National Day and the 28th anniversary of the proclamation of the Saharawi republic,
 - (ii) on 30 January 2004, the United Nations (UN) Security Council extended by 3 months the mandate of the UN mission for Western Sahara, giving Morocco more time to respond to the latest peace plan for Western Sahara,
 - (iii) it is now 13 years since the original peace plan was signed,
 - (iv) Morocco has now accepted a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees-sponsored exchange of family visits for Saharawis separated by war, occupation and the 2 720 km long military rampart erected by Morocco, and
 - (v) a delegation of 11 Australians will join the international march to the 'Wall of Shame' in April 2004 and will visit the 175 000 Saharawis in refugee camps in Algeria; and
- (b) urges the Government to:
 - (i) congratulate Morocco for agreeing to the exchange of family visits, and

- (ii) use its best efforts to persuade Morocco to sign the latest UN peace plan that is based on the organisation of a referendum of self-determination in Western Sahara.

774 **Senator Nettle:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
 - (i) the United Nations (UN) is still involved in a decolonisation process in the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara,
 - (ii) over 165 000 refugees from Western Sahara continue to live in harsh conditions in the southwest of Algeria, dependent on humanitarian assistance which has been dwindling recently,
 - (iii) the human rights situation in the occupied areas of Western Sahara is alarming,
 - (iv) the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1495 (2003) on 31 July 2003, supporting the UN Secretary-General's latest peace plan for self-determination of the Saharawi people, and
 - (v) the mandate of the UN mission for the organisation of a referendum on self-determination in Western Sahara (MINURSO) expires on 30 April 2004; and
- (b) urges the Government to:
 - (i) extend all due assistance to the UN in its efforts to organise a referendum of self-determination in Western Sahara,
 - (ii) provide humanitarian assistance to the Saharawi refugees, who need food and medicine urgently, and
 - (iii) make representations to the Kingdom of Morocco asking it to cooperate with the UN and to put an end to human rights abuses in occupied Western Sahara.

776 **Senator Murray:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) considers that, in light of the Government's revised approach to parliamentary superannuation arrangements, the Life Gold Pass retirement benefit should also be immediately reviewed;
- (b) acknowledges that its decision not to accept the Australian Democrats amendment to the Members of Parliament (Life Gold Pass) Bill 2002 to 'ensure that a member of Parliament, other than a Prime Minister, who first commences his or her term as a member of Parliament in the next Parliament will not be entitled to hold a Life Gold Pass', was not in line with accepted community standards; and
- (c) requests the Government to discontinue the Life Gold Pass retirement perk for retired politicians, with the exception of retired prime ministers.

Notice given 9 March 2004

800 **Senator Stott Despoja:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
 - (i) the Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA) was formed in 1965 and continues to play a significant role as a representative and regulatory body for non-government organisations in Australia,
 - (ii) ACFOA provides representation, advocacy and a forum for cooperation for some 80 member agencies, and
 - (iii) on 10 March 2004, ACFOA will change its name to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID);

- (b) further notes that:
- (i) the United Nations has warned that the international community is falling short of achieving the goals set by world leaders at the Millennium Development Summit in 2000 (the Millennium Development Goals),
 - (ii) Australia's aid budget currently remains at 0.25 per cent of gross national income, which is less than half the level of contribution advocated by the United Nations,
 - (iii) ACFID's submission to the 2004-05 Budget calls on the Government to increase the aid budget by approximately \$500 million in the next budget year, as a first step towards ensuring that Australia contributes its fair share towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, and
 - (iv) ACFID also calls on the Government to implement fair trade, debt relief and good governance policies that underpin the poverty reduction objective of Australia's aid program; and
- (c) calls on the Government to consider increasing the aid budget in the 2004-05 Budget, as advocated by ACFID.

Notice given 10 March 2004

803 **Senator Conroy:** To move—That the Senate calls on the Government to request the Productivity Commission, in accordance with the *Productivity Commission Act 1998*, to:

- (a) undertake a thorough assessment of the impact of the free trade agreement (FTA) made between the governments of Australia and the United States of America in February 2004 on Australia's economy, focussing in particular on:
- (i) the impact on employment and investment,
 - (ii) the impact on Australian agriculture,
 - (iii) the impact on Australia's manufacturing sector across states, territories and regions,
 - (iv) rules of origin,
 - (v) government procurement,
 - (vi) intellectual property,
 - (vii) the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, and
 - (viii) the audio-visual sector; and
- (b) report on any anticipated trade creation and trade diversion effects arising from the agreement and include in its analysis a full assessment of the environmental, social and cultural impact of the FTA.

Notice given 22 March 2004

812 **Senator Ridgeway:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) congratulates Australian distance runner, Benita Johnson, who won gold in the women's 8 kilometre race at the World Cross Country Championships in Brussels on 20 March 2004;
- (b) notes that:
- (i) Ms Johnson is the first Australian in the 32-year history of the event to win any medal in the race, and that she won by more than 50 metres,

- (ii) the world cross country meet is the most competitive distance race in the world, as each country can send up to six representatives, and that this race comprised 100 runners,
 - (iii) Ms Johnson currently holds the Australian 2, 3, 5 and 10 kilometre records, and
 - (iv) Ms Johnson developed her talent at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS);
- (c) notes the increased support the Government has given to sport and the AIS; and
- (d) calls on the Government to ensure that the AIS continues to be adequately supported so as to promote future Australian sporting excellence.

815 Senator Nettle: To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes:
- (i) the call by international student leaders on 22 March 2004 for international students to join the country-wide student protest on 31 March 2004 that is calling for free education,
 - (ii) the growing fee burden experienced by international students, who were the first students to face upfront fees introduced by the then Labor Government and now extended to all Australian students under the policies of the Liberal Government, and
 - (iii) the move of some universities to allow for an increase in the yearly tuition fees paid by international students during the length of their courses;
- (b) condemns the Government for its policies, which have resulted in spiralling student debt; and
- (c) calls on the Government to reverse its regressive user-pays policies which are under-funding universities and driving international and Australian students further into debt.

Notice given 23 March 2004

***816 Chair of the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee (Senator Eggleston):** To move—That the time for the presentation of the report of the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee on the 2003-04 additional estimates be extended to 25 March 2004.

***817 Senator Stott Despoja:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
- (i) the following nine universities have decided to increase their higher education contribution scheme (HECS) fees for 2005, most of them by the full 25 per cent across all disciplines: the University of Sydney, Griffith University, La Trobe University, Queensland University of Technology, Newcastle University, Deakin University, University of Southern Queensland, Swinburne University and Monash University,
 - (ii) only three universities have decided to decrease HECS fees for 2005 in a few disciplines,
 - (iii) increasing HECS fees will further deter students from low socio-economic backgrounds, and

- (iv) 31 March 2004 will be the National Day of Action for university students who will be protesting against the Government's 'Backing Australia's Future: Our Universities' policy and specifically against HECS increases;
- (b) supports constructive attempts by students to prevent the remaining universities increasing HECS fees; and
- (c) condemns the Government for under-funding universities for the past 7 years to such an extent that universities are now turning to students to provide a short-term increase in funding.

*818 **Senator Nettle:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) condemns the Israeli government for:
 - (i) the assassination of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas, by the Israeli army,
 - (ii) the illegal assassination of political adversaries, and
 - (iii) the continued illegal occupation of Palestinian territories and the oppression of the Palestinian people;
- (b) recognises the need for:
 - (i) a genuine commitment to a peaceful resolution in Israel and Palestine from all parties in the conflict, and
 - (ii) the international community to actively pursue strategies to assist in the peaceful and just resolution of the conflict; and
- (c) calls on the Government to:
 - (i) express the strongest condemnation of Israeli assassination raids to the Israeli Government,
 - (ii) urge Palestinian groups to show restraint in response to these attacks, and
 - (iii) work with friends in the international community to redouble efforts to bring a peaceful and just settlement to the conflict in Israel and Palestine.

*819 **Senator Sherry:** To move—That there be laid on the table, by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer, no later than 5 pm on Wednesday, 24 March 2004, the document detailing the actual revenue collected during the 2002-03 financial year from the measure, 'allowing departing temporary residents access to their superannuation' referred to on pages 1 to 25 of the document *Budget strategy and outlook 2002-03* (Budget Paper No. 1).

*820 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Faulkner) and Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Bartlett):** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes:
 - (i) the inappropriate and unacceptable public and private pressure applied by Federal Government ministers and ministerial staff to the Australian Federal Police Commissioner, Mr Keelty, following his comments regarding security risks in Australia, and
 - (ii) that this constitutes ministerial interference at the highest level of Government; and
- (b) calls for:
 - (i) the Government to respond immediately to the recommendations of the Finance and Public Administration References Committee

inquiry into staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*, and

- (ii) the implementation of the recommendations of the Finance and Public Administration References Committee report into staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*, in particular the recommendation that ministerial staff should be required to appear before parliamentary committees where critical or important information or instructions have emanated from a minister's office but not from the minister.

*821 **Senator Nettle:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
 - (i) university students are faced with increased tuition fees, text book costs and living expenses,
 - (ii) Monash University has become the ninth university to increase its tuition fees since the Government passed legislation to allow universities to do so, and
 - (iii) on 22 March 2004, the students at Monash University exercised their right to direct non-violent action to protest against the university's decision to raise tuition fees; and
- (b) congratulates the students at Monash University for:
 - (i) rejecting the Government's user-pays model of higher education, and
 - (ii) their brave action in the week beginning 21 March 2004, undertaken in the interests of their fellow students and the broader interests of equity and accessibility of the higher education system.

*822 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Faulkner):** To move—That there be laid on the table, by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, no later than 4 pm on Tuesday, 30 March 2004, copies of all drafts of the clarifying statement which was negotiated between the Australian Federal Police Commissioner, Mr Keelty, and the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Dr Shergold, and any other members or representatives of the Government and which was issued by the Commissioner on Tuesday, 16 March 2004.

Orders of the Day relating to Government Documents

1 **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission—Report for 2002-03**

Adjourned debate on the motion of the Senator Crossin—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator O'Brien, in continuation, 11 March 2004*).

2 **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner—Report for 2003—Native Title (Report no. 2/2004)**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Greig—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator O'Brien, in continuation, 11 March 2004*).

3 **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner—Report for 2003—Social justice (Report no. 2/2004)**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Greig—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator O'Brien, 11 March 2004*).

Orders of the Day

- 1 **ABC Amendment (Online and Multichannelling Services) Bill 2001 [2002]**—
(*Senate bill*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (3 April 2001)—(*restored pursuant to resolution of 13 February 2002*).
- 2 **Air Navigation Amendment (Extension of Curfew and Limitation of Aircraft Movements) Bill 1995 [2002]**—(*Senate bill*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (27 March 1995)—(*restored pursuant to resolution of 13 February 2002*).
- 3 **Anti-Genocide Bill 1999 [2002]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Greig*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (5 April 2001)—(*restored pursuant to resolution of 13 February 2002*).
- 4 **Australian Broadcasting Corporation Amendment Bill 1999 [2002]**—(*Senate bill*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (25 March 1999)—(*restored pursuant to resolution of 13 February 2002*).
- 5 **Charter of Political Honesty Bill 2000 [2002]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Murray*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (10 October 2000)—(*restored pursuant to resolution of 13 February 2002*).
- 6 **Constitution Alteration (Appropriations for the Ordinary Annual Services of the Government) 2001 [2002]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senators Murray and Stott Despoja*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (26 June 2001)—(*restored pursuant to resolution of 13 February 2002*).
- 7 **Constitution Alteration (Electors' Initiative, Fixed Term Parliaments and Qualification of Members) 2000 [2002]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Murray*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (4 April 2000)—(*restored pursuant to resolution of 13 February 2002*).
- 8 **Corporate Code of Conduct Bill 2000 [2002]**—(*Senate bill*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (6 September 2000)—(*restored pursuant to resolution of 13 February 2002*).
- 10 **Parliamentary Approval of Treaties Bill 1995 [2002]**—(*Senate bill*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (31 May 1995)—(*restored pursuant to resolution of 13 February 2002*).
- 12 **Reconciliation Bill 2001 [2002]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Ridgeway*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Heffernan, in continuation, 27 November 2003*)—(*restored pursuant to resolution of 13 February 2002*).
- 13 **State Elections (One Vote, One Value) Bill 2001 [2002]**—(*Senate bill*)
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Murray—That this bill be now read a second time.
And on the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Faulkner)—Omit all words after “That”, substitute “the bill be referred to the Legal and Constitutional References Committee for inquiry and report by

30 October 2003”—(*Senator Murray, in continuation, 21 August 2003*)—(*restored pursuant to resolution of 13 February 2002*).

14 Public liability insurance premiums

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Conroy—That the Senate—

- (a) expresses its concern about the significant increase in public liability insurance premiums and the effect it is having on the viability of many small businesses and community and sporting organisations;
- (b) condemns the Government for its inaction; and
- (c) urges the Minister to propose a solution to this pressing issue, as quickly as possible, not just look at the problem (*Senator Ferguson, in continuation, 14 February 2002*).

15 Ministers of State (Post-Retirement Employment Restrictions) Bill 2002—(Senate bill)—(Senator Stott Despoja)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Stott Despoja, in continuation, 13 March 2002*).

16 Lucas Heights reactor—Order for production of documents—Statement by Minister

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Carr—That the Senate take note of the statement (*Senator Carr, in continuation, 19 March 2002*).

17 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Boundary Extension) Amendment Bill 2002—(Senate bill)—(Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Bartlett)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Calvert, in continuation, 16 May 2002*).

18 Genetic Privacy and Non-discrimination Bill 1998 [2002]—(Senate bill)—(Senator Stott Despoja)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*5 October 2000*)—(*restored pursuant to resolution of 14 May 2002*).

19 Patents Amendment Bill 1996 [2002]—(Senate bill)—(Senator Stott Despoja)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*27 June 1996*)—(*restored pursuant to resolution of 14 May 2002*).

20 Republic (Consultation of the People) Bill 2001 [2002]—(Senate bill)—(Senator Stott Despoja)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*26 September 2001*)—(*restored pursuant to resolution of 14 May 2002*).

21 Australian Broadcasting Corporation (Scrutiny of Board Appointments) Amendment Bill 2002—(Senate bill)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*15 May 2002*).

22 Workplace Relations Amendment (Paid Maternity Leave) Bill 2002—(Senate bill)—(Senator Stott Despoja)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Santoro, in continuation, 11 March 2004*).

24 Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry (Forest Practices) Bill 2002—(Senate bill)—(Senator Brown)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Brown, in continuation, 20 June 2002*).

25 **Family Law Amendment (Joint Residency) Bill 2002**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Harris*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Harris, in continuation, 20 June 2002*).

26 **ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organisation (AIPO)—Report of the Australian parliamentary delegation to the 22nd AIPO General Assembly, Thailand, 2 to 5 September 2001; Visits and briefings, Bangkok, 6 to 8 September 2001; and Bi-lateral visit to Singapore, 9 to 13 September 2001**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Calvert—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Calvert, in continuation, 27 June 2002*).

27 **Family and Community Services—Family tax benefits**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Ludwig—That the Senate—

- (a) condemns the Howard Government's decision to strip, without warning, the tax returns of Australian families who have been overpaid family payments as callous and unfair to parents trying to survive under increasing financial pressures;
- (b) notes that this is not consistent with the statement of the Minister for Family and Community Services (Senator Vanstone) in July 2001 in which she assured families that, 'The Government has also decided that it would be easier for any family who still had an excess payment to have it recovered by adjusting their future payments, rather than taking it from their tax refund. This is because people may have earmarked their refund for use for specific things';
- (c) considers that the Government's 2-year-old family payments system is deeply flawed, given that it delivered average debts of \$850 to 650 000 Australian families in the 2001-02 financial year and continues to punish families who play by the rules; and
- (d) condemns the Howard Government and its contemptible attack on Australian families (*Senator Tierney, in continuation, 22 August 2002*).

28 **Health—Medicare—Bulk billing**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Evans—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
 - (i) since the election of the Howard Government, the rate of bulk billing by general practitioners (GPs) has dropped from 80.6 per cent to 74.5 per cent, and that the average patient cost to see a GP who does not bulk bill has gone up 41.8 per cent to nearly \$12, and
 - (ii) in every year from the commencement of Medicare in 1984 through to 1996, bulk billing rates for GPs increased, but that, in every year since the election of the Howard Government, bulk billing rates have decreased;
- (b) recognises that the unavailability of bulk billing hurts those Australians who are least able to afford the rising costs of health care and those who are at greatest risk of preventable illness and disease;
- (c) condemns the Howard Government's failure to take responsibility for declining rates of bulk billing; and

- (d) calls on the Minister for Health and Ageing (Senator Patterson) to release publicly the June 2002 quarter bulk billing figures so that the true extent of the problem is made known (*Senator Moore, in continuation, 29 August 2002*).

29 Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety (Licence Charges) Amendment Bill 2002—Document

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Ludwig—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Ludwig, in continuation, 16 September 2002*).

30 Kyoto Protocol (Ratification) Bill 2002—(Senate bill)—(Senator Brown)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Brown, in continuation, 19 September 2002*).

31 Communications—Regional telecommunication services—Inquiry

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Mackay—That the Senate—

- (a) condemns the Howard Government for establishing an inquiry into regional telecommunications services, the Estens inquiry, which is chaired by a member of the National Party and friend of the Deputy Prime Minister, and has a former National Party MP as one of its members;
- (b) condemns the Government's decisions that the inquiry will hold no public hearings and must report within little more than 2 months of its commencement; and
- (c) calls on the Government to address all issues associated with Telstra's performance, including rising prices, deteriorating service standards and inadequate broadband provision (*Senator Tierney in continuation, 19 September 2002*).

32 Trade Practices Amendment (Public Liability Insurance) Bill 2002 [No. 2]—(Senate bill)—(Senator Conroy)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Conroy, in continuation, 23 September 2002*).

33 Corporations Amendment (Improving Corporate Governance) Bill 2002 [No. 2]—(Senate bill)—(Senator Conroy)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Conroy, in continuation, 23 September 2002*).

34 Trade Practices Amendment (Credit Card Reform) Bill 2002 [No. 2]—(Senate bill)—(Senator Conroy)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Conroy, in continuation, 23 September 2002*).

35 Superannuation

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Sherry—That the Senate notes the Howard Government's third term failures on superannuation, including:

- (a) the failure to provide for a contributions tax cut for all Australians who pay it, rather than a tax cut only to those earning more than \$90 500 a year;
- (b) the failure to adequately compensate victims of superannuation theft or fraud;
- (c) the failure to accurately assess the administrative burden on small business of the Government's third attempt at superannuation choice and deregulation;

- (d) the failure to support strong consumer protections for superannuation fund members through capping ongoing fees and banning entry and exit fees;
 - (e) the failure to provide consumers with a meaningful, comprehensive and comprehensible regime for fee disclosure; and
 - (f) the failure to cover unpaid superannuation contributions in the case of corporate collapse as part of a workers' entitlements scheme (*Senator Ferguson, in continuation, 26 September 2002*).
- 36 **Plastic Bag (Minimisation of Usage) Education Fund Bill 2002 [No. 2]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Brown*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Brown, in continuation, 21 October 2002*).
- 37 **Plastic Bag Levy (Assessment and Collection) Bill 2002 [No. 2]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Brown*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Brown, in continuation, 21 October 2002*).
- 38 **Parliament House security—Statement by President**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Ray—That the Senate take note of the statement (*Senator Ray, in continuation, 11 November 2002*).
- 39 **Convention on Climate Change (Implementation) Bill 1999 [2002]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Brown*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (2 September 1999)—(*restored pursuant to resolution of 12 November 2002*).
- 40 **Customs Amendment (Anti-Radioactive Waste Storage Dump) Bill 1999 [2002]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Brown*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (20 October 1999)—(*restored pursuant to resolution of 12 November 2002*).
- 41 **Human Rights (Mandatory Sentencing for Property Offences) Bill 2000 [2002]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Brown*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (6 September 2000)—(*restored pursuant to resolution of 12 November 2002*).
- 43 **Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry (Bali Bombings) Bill 2002**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Brown*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Brown, in continuation, 4 December 2002*).
- 44 **Health—Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme—Order for Production of Documents—Statement by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer (Senator Ian Campbell)**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nettle—That the Senate take note of the statement (*Senator Nettle, in continuation, 4 December 2002*).
- 45 **Trade—Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme—Order for Production of Documents—Statement by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer (Senator Ian Campbell)**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Nettle—That the Senate take note of the statement (*Senator Nettle, in continuation, 4 December 2002*).

- 46 **Public Interest Disclosure (Protection of Whistleblowers) Bill 2002**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Murray*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Murray, in continuation, 11 December 2002*).
- 47 **Uranium Mining in or near Australian World Heritage Properties (Prohibition) Bill 1998 [2002]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Allison*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*28 May 1998*)—(*restored pursuant to resolution of 11 December 2002*).
- 48 **Environment—National radioactive waste repository**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Carr—That the Senate condemns the Government for:
- (a) its failure to respect the rights of the people of South Australia in its consultation process over the location of the planned low-level radioactive waste repository;
 - (b) its decision to replace effective and meaningful consultation and discussion with a \$300 000 propaganda campaign, designed to sway the opinions of South Australians towards locating the repository in that state, in the absence of genuine efforts to provide accurate and exhaustive information on the suitability of the selected site, close to Woomera; and
 - (c) its lack of a thorough examination of the environmental impact of this plan, in particular the possible dangers caused by the site's proximity to the Woomera rocket range, and the serious concerns of both the Department of Defence and private contractors on this issue (*Senator Buckland, in continuation, 6 February 2003*).
- 49 **Immigration—East Timorese asylum seekers—Document**
Adjourned debate on the motion of the Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Bartlett)—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Crossin, in continuation, 3 March 2003*).
- 50 **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Protecting the Great Barrier Reef from Oil Drilling and Exploration) Amendment Bill 2003 [No. 2]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator McLucas and the Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Bartlett*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*6 March 2003*).
- 51 **Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Bill 2003**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Conroy*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Conroy, in continuation, 6 March 2003*).
- 52 **Islamic Republic of Iran and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan—Report of the Australian parliamentary delegation, October to November 2002**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Ferris—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Ferris, in continuation, 6 March 2003*).
- 53 **Taxation—Small business**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Conroy—That the Senate—
- (a) calls on the Government to take action to crack down on late payments by big business and government customers to their small business suppliers; and
 - (b) notes that:

- (i) late payments by big businesses are a major issue for small businesses as they create cash flow problems,
- (ii) this comes on top of the cumbersome administrative arrangements of the new tax system, and
- (iii) the problems faced by small business are being ignored by the Howard Government (*adjourned, 20 March 2003*).

54 Environment—Rehabilitation of former nuclear test sites at Emu and Maralinga (Australia)—Ministerial statement

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Carr—That the Senate take note of the statement (*Senator Chapman, in continuation, 25 March 2003*).

55 Building and Construction Industry—Royal Commission—Ministerial statement and documents

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Sherry—That the Senate take note of the documents (*Senator Santoro, in continuation, 26 March 2003*).

56 Defence Amendment (Parliamentary approval for Australian involvement in overseas conflicts) Bill 2003—(Senate bill)—(Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Bartlett, and Senator Stott Despoja)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 27 March 2003*).

57 Electoral Amendment (Political Honesty) Bill 2003—(Senate bill)—(Senator Murray)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Murray, in continuation, 27 March 2003*).

58 Sexuality Anti-Vilification Bill 2003—(Senate bill)—(Senator Greig)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Greig, in continuation, 27 March 2003*).

59 Governor-General

Adjourned debate on the motion of the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Faulkner)—That the Senate—

- (a) notes with concern that:
 - (i) the Government has failed to respond to evidence of sexual abuse of children in our society and within our public institutions,
 - (ii) the independent report of the Diocesan Board of Inquiry found that Dr Peter Hollingworth, while occupying a position of public trust as Archbishop of Brisbane, allowed a priest to remain in the ministry after an admission of sexual abuse, and the Board of Inquiry found this decision to be ‘untenable’,
 - (iii) the Governor-General has admitted that he made a serious error in doing so,
 - (iv) Dr Peter Hollingworth, through his actions while in the Office of Governor-General, in particular his interview on ‘Australian Story’ and his apparent ‘reconstruction’ of evidence before the Diocesan Board of Inquiry, has shown himself not to be a person suitable to hold the Office of Governor-General,
 - (v) members of the House of Representatives, senators, and premiers and members of state parliaments have called upon the Governor-

General to resign, or failing that, to be dismissed by the Prime Minister,

- (vi) the Governor-General is now no longer able to fulfil his symbolic role as a figure of unity for the Australian people,
 - (vii) the Governor-General is now no longer able to exercise the constitutional powers of the Office in a manner that will be seen as impartial and non-partisan,
 - (viii) the Governor-General's action in standing aside until the current Victorian Supreme Court action is resolved, does not address any of the issues surrounding his behaviour as Archbishop of Brisbane, and is therefore inadequate,
 - (ix) the Governor-General has failed to resign and the Prime Minister has failed to advise the Queen of Australia to dismiss him, and
 - (x) the Australian Constitution fails to set out any criteria for the dismissal of a Governor-General or a fair process by which this can be achieved; and
- (b) urges:
- (i) the Prime Minister to establish a Royal Commission into child sexual abuse in Australia, and
 - (ii) the Governor-General to immediately resign or, if he does not do so, the Prime Minister to advise the Queen of Australia to terminate the Commission of the Governor-General—(*Senator Ludwig, in continuation, 13 May 2003*).

And on the amendment moved by Senator Murphy—Omit all words after "That", substitute "the Senate—

- (a) notes with concern that:
- (i) Dr Peter Hollingworth, while in the Office of Governor-General, gave in an interview on 'Australian Story', a version of events which have been found by the diocesan Board of Inquiry to be untrue, and
 - (ii) the same Board of Inquiry found that they could not accept Dr Hollingworth had a belief that the child sexual abuse was an isolated incident and that his handling of the matters was untenable;
- (b) finds that:
- (i) the circumstances that have developed around the Office of Governor-General are doing irreparable damage to the Office and must be resolved,
 - (ii) the conclusions of the report of the Anglican Church clearly demonstrates that Dr Hollingworth failed in his duty as Archbishop,
 - (iii) such failing in a position of significant public trust renders Dr Hollingworth an unsuitable person to fill the Office of Governor-General,
 - (iv) the Governor-General's action in standing aside until the current Victorian Supreme Court action is resolved does not address any of the issues surrounding his behaviour as Archbishop of Brisbane, and is therefore inadequate,
 - (v) the Governor-General is now no longer able to fulfil his symbolic role as a figure of unity for the Australian people, and
 - (vi) the Governor-General is now no longer able to exercise the constitutional powers of the Office in a manner that will be seen as

impartial and non-partisan; and, therefore, in light of these unacceptable circumstances

(c) urges:

- (i) the Governor-General to immediately resign or, if he does not do so, the Prime Minister to advise the Queen of Australia to terminate the Commission of Governor-General, and
- (ii) the Prime Minister to establish a Royal Commission into child sexual abuse in Australia” (*Senator Collins, in continuation, 14 May 2003*).

60 Textbook Subsidy Bill 2003—(Senate bill)—(Senator Stott Despoja)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Stott Despoja, in continuation, 18 June 2003*).

61 Health—Medicare—Bulk billing

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator McLucas—That the Senate—

- (a) condemns the most damaging effects of the Government’s proposed reforms to Medicare, which will create a user-pays, two-tiered health system in Australia and dismantle the universality of Medicare;
- (b) acknowledges that the first of the damaging effects of the Government’s reform package is to cause bulk-billing rates to decline further, and that these reforms do nothing to encourage doctors to bulk bill any Australians other than pensioners and concession cardholders but make it clear that the Government considers bulk billing to be a privilege that accrues only to a subset of Australians, not an entitlement that all Australians have as a result of the Medicare charge;
- (c) notes that the second most damaging effect of the Government’s proposed changes to Medicare is the facilitation and encouragement of higher and higher co-payments to be charged by medical practitioners, and that a central plank of the Government’s package is the facilitation of co-payments to be charged by doctors who currently bulk bill Australian families, as well as to make it easier for doctors who currently charge a co-payment to increase the amount of this co-payment; and
- (d) notes, with concern, that the Government seeks to allow private health funds to offer insurance for out-of-pocket expenses in excess of \$1 000, a measure which, if implemented, would inflate health insurance premiums as well as be a real step towards a user-pays system in Australia where people who can afford co-payments and insurance premiums will be treated when they are sick, whereas those individuals and families on lower incomes will be forced to go without medical assistance (*Senator Eggleston, in continuation, 19 June 2003*)

62 Freedom of Information Amendment (Open Government) Bill 2003—(Senate bill)—(Senator Murray)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Murray, in continuation, 25 June 2003*).

63 Looking to the future: A review of Commonwealth fisheries policy—Ministerial statement

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator O’Brien—That the Senate take note of the statement (*adjourned, Senator McGauran, 25 June 2002*).

64 **Social Security Amendment (Supporting Young Carers) Bill 2003**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Lees*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Lees, in continuation, 26 June 2003*).

65 **National Animal Welfare Bill 2003**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Bartlett*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 11 August 2003*).

66 **Transport—Ethanol—Manildra Group**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator O'Brien—That the Senate condemns the Prime Minister (Mr Howard) for his ongoing pattern of deceit in relation to his dealings with the chair of the Manildra Group, Mr Dick Honan, prior to a Cabinet decision that delivers direct financial benefits to that company (*Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation (Senator Ian Macdonald), in continuation, 14 August 2003*).

67 **Regional Australia**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator O'Brien—That the Senate—

- (a) notes, with grave concern, the crisis enveloping rural and regional Australia;
- (b) condemns the Howard Government for its neglect of rural and regional Australians, in particular, its failure to:
 - (i) adequately respond to the growing drought,
 - (ii) provide timely and appropriate assistance to the sugar industry, and
 - (iii) support essential services including health, banking, employment and telecommunications; and
- (c) calls on the Howard Government to reverse its neglect of rural and regional communities (*Senator Colbeck, in continuation, 11 September 2003*).

68 **Financial Management and Accountability (Anti-Restrictive Software Practices) Amendment Bill 2003**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Greig*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Greig, in continuation, 18 September 2003*).

69 **Health—Medicare—Bulk billing**

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator McLucas—That the Senate—

- (a) notes, with grave concern, the crisis in Australia's health system, including:
 - (i) bulk billing rates falling by more than 12 per cent since 1996,
 - (ii) 10 million fewer services being bulk-billed each year by general practitioners than in 1996,
 - (iii) the 59 per cent rise since 1996 in the average amount patients are required to pay to see a general practitioner (GP),
 - (iv) the largely unaddressed GP workforce shortage, which government policies have exacerbated,
 - (v) the unaddressed shortages in nurses, dentists, radiographers and other vitally-needed health professionals,
 - (vi) emergency departments in public hospitals being strained by the increasing numbers of patients who could have been attended to by a GP, and
 - (vii) frail aged people being accommodated in acute hospital beds because there is nowhere else for them to go; and

- (b) calls on the Government to respond to community concerns about its health policies, as evidenced by tens of thousands of petitions, by:
 - (i) addressing the health crisis in co-operation with the states,
 - (ii) strengthening Medicare by taking steps to ensure universal access to bulk-billing, and
 - (iii) ensuring that enough GPs, nurses, dentists, radiographers and other vitally-needed health professionals are trained and retained in the health system—(*Senator Barnett, in continuation, 18 September 2003*).

- 70 **Truth in Food Labelling Bill 2003**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Brown*)
 Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Brown, in continuation, 13 October 2003*).

- 72 **Sexuality and Gender Identity Discrimination Bill 2003**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Greig*)
 Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Greig, in continuation, 25 November 2003*).

- 73 **Racial and Religious Hatred Bill 2003 [No. 2]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Ludwig*)
 Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Ludwig, in continuation, 1 December 2003*).

- 74 **Sri Lanka and the 49th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Bangladesh—Report of the Australian parliamentary delegation, 1 to 12 October 2003**
 Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Watson—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Watson, in continuation, 1 December 2003*).

- 75 **Broadcasting Services (Safeguarding Local Content and Local Audience Needs) Amendment Bill 2003**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Lees*)
 Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Lees, in continuation, 3 December 2003*).

- 76 **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act—Statement under subsection 40(3)—Suspension of a commissioner from office, dated 11 February 2004—Document**
 Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator O'Brien—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator O'Brien, in continuation, 12 February 2004*).

- 77 **Trade—Free Trade Agreement**
 Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Conroy—That the Senate—
 - (a) expresses great concern that the Howard Government has sold out Australian sugar growers;
 - (b) notes that:
 - (i) the expected gains from the trade deal with the United States of America (US) are based on unrealistic assumptions, and
 - (ii) the US offered a better deal on agriculture to Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; and
 - (c) has referred the trade deal with the US to a select committee for thorough examination to assess if it is in Australia's national interest—(*Senator Ferris, in continuation, 12 February 2004*).

78 Invasion of Iraq Royal Commission (Restoring Public Trust in Government) Bill 2004 [No. 2]—(Senate bill)—(Senators Brown and Nettle)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Brown, in continuation, 3 March 2004*).

79 Euthanasia Laws (Repeal) Bill 2004—(Senate bill)—(Senator Allison)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Allison, in continuation, 3 March 2004*).

80 Superannuation—Retirement income measures

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator George Campbell—That the Senate—

- (a) condemns the Liberal Government for the underlying thrust of its recently-announced retirement incomes measures, that Australians should forget full-time retirement and work longer and longer – in reality, work until they drop;
- (b) while acknowledging that the Government’s announced policies may be of value to some retirees, considers that they must be implemented with a guarantee that:
 - (i) current access ages for superannuation, 55 for those born before 1 July 1960, phasing up to a retirement age of 60 for those born after 30 June 1964,
 - (ii) current eligibility ages for the age pension of 62 and 65 years, and
 - (iii) indexation of the age pension to Male Total Average Weekly Earnings,
 shall be maintained;
- (c) notes that:
 - (i) Australia does not face a retirement incomes ‘crisis’ resulting from the ageing of the population, because of the efficiency and effectiveness of the combined operation of the age pension and the 9 per cent superannuation guarantee contribution, and
 - (ii) there is active discrimination occurring in the workforce against those aged 40 and over who are seeking meaningful full-time employment and for whom retirement is the only option; and
- (d) is of the opinion that:
 - (i) all Australians are entitled to retire at a time of their choosing to enjoy rest, recreation, community activity and family, at their leisure, and
 - (ii) for many Australians, it is impractical to expect them to work beyond the current retirement ages because they will not be able to find either full- or part-time work, or the nature of their employment involves a mandatory retirement age or is of such a physically and mentally stressful nature that employment beyond the current retirement age is not possible—(*Senator McGauran, in continuation, 4 March 2004*).

81 Resale Royalty Bill 2004—(Senate bill)—(Senator Lundy)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Lundy, in continuation, 11 March 2004*).

***82 Flags Amendment (Eureka Flag) Bill 2004—(Senate bill)—(Senator Marshall)**

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Marshall, in continuation, 23 March 2004*).

BUSINESS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Next day of sitting (25 March 2004)

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee**

Report to be presented on the Kyoto Protocol Ratification Bill 2003 [No. 2].
(*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

General Business—Order of the Day

71 **Kyoto Protocol Ratification Bill 2003 [No. 2]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senators Brown and Lundy*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Santoro, in continuation, 30 October 2003*).

On 29 March 2004

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Economics Legislation Committee**

Report to be presented on the Taxation Laws (Clearing and Settlement Facility Support) Bill 2003. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

Government Business—Order of the Day

1 **Taxation Laws (Clearing and Settlement Facility Support) Bill 2003**—(*Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, Senator Vanstone*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Crossin, 11 February 2004*).

On 30 March 2004

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee**

Report to be presented on the provisions of the Telecommunications (Interception) Amendment Bill 2004. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

On 31 March 2004

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

1 **Ministerial Discretion in Migration Matters—Select Committee**

Report to be presented.

2 **Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee**

Report to be presented on the Australian telecommunications network.

3 Legal and Constitutional References Committee

Report to be presented on the capacity of current legal aid and access to justice arrangements to meet the community need for legal assistance.

By the last sitting day in March 2004 (31 March 2004)

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

1 Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee

Report to be presented on competition in broadband services.

2 Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee

Report to be presented on the regulation, control and management of invasive species.

3 Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee

Report to be presented on the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Invasive Species) Bill 2002. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

General Business—Order of the Day

42 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Invasive Species) Bill 2002—(Senate bill)—(Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Bartlett)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 19 November 2002.*)

On 1 April 2004

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

1 Economics Legislation Committee

Report to be presented on the provisions of the Treasury Legislation Amendment (Professional Standards) Bill 2003. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

2 Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Report to be presented in respect of the 2003-04 additional estimates.

3 Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Report to be presented on annual reports tabled by 31 October 2003.

4 Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Report to be presented on the Truth in Food Labelling Bill 2003. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

On 7 April 2004

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee**

Report to be presented on the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Amendment Bill 2003.

On 30 April 2004

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Community Affairs References Committee**

Report to be presented on children in institutional care.

On the first day of the Budget sittings 2004 (11 May 2004)

Government Business—Orders of the Day

1 **Greater Sunrise Unitisation Agreement Implementation Bill 2004**

Customs Tariff Amendment (Greater Sunrise) Bill 2004—(*Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, Senator Ian Campbell*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (10 March 2004).

2 **Telecommunications (Interception) Amendment Bill 2004**—(*Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, Senator Ian Campbell*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (11 March 2004).

On 11 May 2004

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Procedure—Standing Committee—Third report of 2003—Joint meetings to receive addresses by foreign heads of state; Reference of tax expenditures statement to estimates hearings**

Consideration (4 December 2003).

On 12 May 2004

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

1 **Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee**

Report to be presented on the effectiveness of the Australian military justice system.

2 **Economics Legislation Committee**

Report to be presented on the New International Tax Arrangements Bill 2003. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

3 **Economics Legislation Committee**

Report to be presented on the Tax Laws Amendment (2004 Measures No. 1) Bill 2004. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

Government Business—Orders of the Day

- 1 **New International Tax Arrangements Bill 2003**—(Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Ellison)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Crossin, 8 March 2004*).
- 2 **Tax Laws Amendment (2004 Measures No. 1) Bill 2004**—(Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Ellison)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*8 March 2004*).

General Business—Notice of Motion

Notice given 15 May 2003

- 466 **Senator Lees:** To move—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to enhance the protection of biodiversity on private land, and for related purposes. ***Protection of Biodiversity on Private Land Bill 2003.***

On 13 May 2004

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

- 1 **Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee**
Report to be presented on the exposure draft of the Building and Construction Industry Improvement Bill 2003 and the provisions of the Building and Construction Industry Improvement Bill 2003 and the Building and Construction Industry Improvement (Consequential and Transitional) Bill 2003.
- 2 **Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee**
Report to be presented on the performance of government agencies in the assessment and dissemination of security threats in South East Asia in the period 11 September 2001 to 12 October 2002.
- 3 **Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee**
Report to be presented on forestry plantations.
- 4 **Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**
Report to be presented on the Customs Tariff Amendment (Paraquat Dichloride) Bill 2004. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

Government Business—Orders of the Day

- 1 **Building and Construction Industry Improvement Bill 2003**
Building and Construction Industry Improvement (Consequential and Transitional) Bill 2003—(Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, Senator Vanstone)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Buckland, 10 February 2004*).
- 2 **Customs Tariff Amendment (Paraquat Dichloride) Bill 2004**—(Minister for Family and Community Services, Senator Patterson)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*3 March 2004*).
(*Bill exempted on 8 March 2004 from the provisions of paragraphs (5), (6) and (8) of standing order 111—see Orders of the Senate—Legislation*)

General Business—Notice of Motion

Notice given 15 May 2003

- 467 **Senator Lees:** To move—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to encourage a stronger civic culture in Australia, and for related purposes. *Encouraging Communities Bill 2003.*

On 27 May 2004

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

Report to be presented on the administration of AusSAR in relation to the search for the *Margaret J.*

On 4 June 2004, or on such later date as is determined by the committee

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 Free Trade Agreement—Australia and the United States of America—Select Committee

Report to be presented.

On 17 June 2004

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

1 Community Affairs References Committee

Report to be presented on Hepatitis C in Australia.

2 Legislation Committees

Reports to be presented in respect of the 2004-05 Budget estimates.

3 Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee

Report to be presented on the provisions of the Workplace Relations Amendment (Award Simplification) Bill 2002 and on the Workplace Relations Amendment (Better Bargaining) Bill 2003, the Workplace Relations Amendment (Choice in Award Coverage) Bill 2004 and the Workplace Relations Amendment (Simplifying Agreement-making) Bill 2004. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

4 Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

Report to be presented on the provisions of the Civil Aviation Legislation Amendment (Mutual Recognition with New Zealand and Other Matters) Bill 2003. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

5 Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

Report to be presented on current health preparation arrangements for the deployment of Australian Defence Forces overseas.

Government Business—Orders of the Day

- 1 Workplace Relations Amendment (Better Bargaining) Bill 2003**—(*Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, Senator Ian Campbell*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Mackay, 1 March 2004*).

- 2 **Workplace Relations Amendment (Choice in Award Coverage) Bill 2004**—
(*Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, Senator Ian Campbell*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Mackay, 1 March 2004*).

- 3 **Workplace Relations Amendment (Simplifying Agreement-making) Bill 2004**—(*Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, Senator Ian Campbell*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Mackay, 1 March 2004*).

On 24 June 2004

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

- 1 **Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee**

Report to be presented on rural water resource usage.

By the last sitting day in June 2004 (24 June 2004)

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

- 1 **Economics References Committee**

Report to be presented on the structure and distributive effects of the Australian taxation system.

- 2 **Electoral Matters—Joint Standing Committee**

Report to be presented on electoral funding and disclosure and any amendments to the Commonwealth Electoral Act necessary in relation to political donations.

On the first sitting day in August 2004 (3 August 2004)

Business of the Senate—Notice of Motion

Notice given 25 June 2003

- 1 **Senator Tierney:** To move—That the following matter be referred to the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee for inquiry and report by the last sitting day in June 2004:

Parents as educators in the early childhood years, with particular reference to:

- (a) the extent to which parenting skills and family support are factors in reducing educational and social risks of children in the 3 years and under age group;
- (b) whether current patterns of parental involvement in community and school-based programs are adequate to respond to the challenge of assisting children with early learning and social behaviour problems;
- (c) the current state and territory provisions and programs, whether based on pre-schools, schools, play groups or day-care centres etc, established to assist parents with early childhood learning support;
- (d) best practice in home to school transition programs for children, and an assessment as to whether they can be adapted for national implementation; and

- (e) the most appropriate role for the Commonwealth in supporting national programs for raising parental consciousness and levels of knowledge and competence in relation to the early educational, social and emotional and health needs of children.

On 5 August 2004

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

Report to be presented on the administration of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

On the tenth sitting day after 30 June 2004 (1 September 2004)

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Legislation Committees**

Reports to be presented on annual reports tabled by 30 April 2004.

On 1 September 2004

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Legal and Constitutional References Committee**

Report to be presented on the needs of expatriate Australians.

On 25 November 2004

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

1 **Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee**

Report to be presented on the progress and future direction of life-long learning.

2 **Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee**

Report to be presented on Indigenous training and employment outcomes.

3 **Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee**

Report to be presented on student income support.

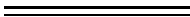
On the next day of sitting after the government fully complies with the order for the production of documents relating to a proposed excise and production subsidy on ethanol made on 16 October 2002

Government Business—Order of the Day

1 **Customs Tariff Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003**

Excise Tariff Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2003—(*Special Minister of State, Senator Abetz*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (*12 August 2003*).



BILLS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES

Bills currently referred†

Australian Federal Police and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2003 [2004]‡

Referred to the Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee (*referred 11 February 2004; reporting date: 23 March 2004*).

Customs Tariff Amendment (Paraquat Dichloride) Bill 2004‡

Referred to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee (*referred 10 March 2004; reporting date: 13 May 2004*).

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Invasive Species) Bill 2002‡

Referred to the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee (*referred 26 March 2003; order varied 26 June 2003; reporting date varied 16 September 2003; reporting date: last sitting day in March 2004*).

Kyoto Protocol Ratification Bill 2003 [No. 2]‡

Referred to the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee (*referred 26 November 2003; reporting date varied 3 March 2004; reporting date: 25 March 2004*).

New International Tax Arrangements Bill 2003‡

Referred to the Economics Legislation Committee (*referred 10 March 2004; reporting date: 12 May 2004*).

Tax Laws Amendment (2004 Measures No. 1) Bill 2004‡

Referred to the Economics Legislation Committee (*referred 10 March 2004; reporting date: 12 May 2004*).

Taxation Laws (Clearing and Settlement Facility Support) Bill 2003‡

Referred to the Economics Legislation Committee (*referred 3 March 2004; reporting date: 29 March 2004*).

Truth in Food Labelling Bill 2003‡

Referred to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee (*referred 29 October 2003; reporting date varied 11 March 2004; reporting date: 1 April 2004*).

Workplace Relations Amendment (Better Bargaining) Bill 2003‡

Workplace Relations Amendment (Choice in Award Coverage) Bill 2004‡

Workplace Relations Amendment (Simplifying Agreement-making) Bill 2004‡

Referred to the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee (*referred 3 March 2004; reporting date: 17 June 2004*).

Provisions of bills currently referred†

Building and Construction Industry Improvement Bill 2003‡

Building and Construction Industry Improvement (Consequential and Transitional) Bill 2003‡

Referred to the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee (*referred 3 December 2003; reporting date varied 4 December 2003; reporting date: 13 May 2004*).

Civil Aviation Legislation Amendment (Mutual Recognition with New Zealand and Other Matters) Bill 2003‡

Referred to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee (*referred 10 March 2004; reporting date: 17 June 2004*).

Disability Discrimination Amendment Bill 2003

Referred to the Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee (*referred 4 December 2003; reporting date varied 2 March 2004; reporting date: 7 April 2004*).

Greater Sunrise Unitisation Agreement Implementation Bill 2004‡

Customs Tariff Amendment (Greater Sunrise) Bill 2004‡

Referred to the Economics Legislation Committee (*referred 10 March 2004; reporting date: 23 March 2004*).

Telecommunications (Interception) Amendment Bill 2004‡

Referred to the Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee (*referred 3 March 2004; reporting date: 30 March 2004*).

Treasury Legislation Amendment (Professional Standards) Bill 2003‡

Referred to the Economics Legislation Committee (*referred 11 February 2004; reporting date: 1 April 2004*).

Workplace Relations Amendment (Award Simplification) Bill 2002‡

Referred to the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee (*referred 3 March 2004; reporting date: 17 June 2004*).

‡Further information about the progress of these bills may be found in the Department of the Senate's Bills to Committees Update.

‡Pursuant to adoption of report of Selection of Bills Committee.

BILLS DISCHARGED, LAID ASIDE OR NEGATIVED

Government Bills

Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (Australians Working Together and other 2001 Budget Measures) Bill 2002

Redundant order relating to the bill discharged from *Notice Paper*, 12 December 2002.

Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (Disability Reform) Bill (No. 2) 2002

Second reading negatived, 19 November 2002.

Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (Disability Reform) Bill (No. 2) 2002 [No. 2]

Second reading negatived, 24 June 2003.

Migration Amendment (Duration of Detention) Bill 2004

Second reading negatived, 8 March 2004.

Migration Legislation Amendment (Further Border Protection Measures) Bill 2002

Second reading negatived, 9 December 2002.

Migration Legislation Amendment (Further Border Protection Measures) Bill 2002 [No. 2]

Second reading negatived, 16 June 2003.

National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits—Budget Measures) Bill 2002

Second reading negatived, 20 June 2002.

National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits—Budget Measures) Bill 2002 [No. 2]

Second reading negatived, 4 March 2003.

Superannuation (Surcharge Rate Reduction) Amendment Bill 2003

Second reading negatived, 24 June 2003.

Restored to *Notice Paper* pursuant to resolution of 10 September 2003.

Telstra (Transition to Full Private Ownership) Bill 2003

Second reading negatived, 30 October 2003.

Trade Practices Amendment (Small Business Protection) Bill 2002

Third reading negatived, 19 August 2002.

Trade Practices Amendment (Small Business Protection) Bill 2002 [No. 2]

Third reading negatived, 3 March 2003.

Workplace Relations Amendment (Codifying Contempt Offences) Bill 2003

Third reading negatived, 3 March 2004.

Workplace Relations Amendment (Compliance with Court and Tribunal Orders) Bill 2003

Third reading negatived, 8 March 2004.

Workplace Relations Amendment (Secret Ballots for Protected Action) Bill 2002

Third reading negatived, 25 September 2002.

Workplace Relations Amendment (Secret Ballots for Protected Action) Bill 2002 [No. 2]

Third reading negatived, 24 March 2003.

Workplace Relations Amendment (Termination of Employment) Bill 2002

Third reading negatived, 11 August 2003.

Workplace Relations Amendment (Termination of Employment) Bill 2002 [No. 2]

Third reading negatived, 22 March 2004.

Private Senator's Bills

Constitution Alteration (Right to Stand for Parliament—Qualification of Members and Candidates) 1998 (No. 2) [2002]

Laid aside pursuant to standing order 135, 15 May 2003.

Electoral Amendment (Political Honesty) Bill 2000 [2002]

Discharged from *Notice Paper*, 27 March 2003.

Freedom of Information Amendment (Open Government) Bill 2000 [2002]

Discharged from *Notice Paper*, 25 June 2003.

Public Interest Disclosure Bill 2001 [2002]

Discharged from *Notice Paper*, 11 December 2002.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question Nos, as shown, from 55 to 2572 remain unanswered for 30 or more days (see standing order 74(5)).

Notice given 12 February 2002

55 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer—

- (1) Is it the case that the Melbourne office of the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) failed to notify trustees of pre-existing pooled superannuation trusts (PSTs) that, under new regulations, they were required to notify APRA in writing that they wished their trusts to continue to be treated as PSTs by 31 October 2000.
- (2) Is it the case that trusts that have failed to so notify APRA will become non-complying superannuation funds, attracting a tax rate of 48.5 per cent on fund earnings instead of the concessional 15 per cent.
- (3) How long has APRA been aware of the failure to notify outlined in (1).
- (4) How long has the Minister or the department been aware of the failure to notify.
- (5) Has APRA or the Government taken any action to resolve this matter.
- (6) What action will the Government and APRA be taking to resolve this matter.

Notice given 15 March 2002

196 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs—Did Mr Ron Walker attend the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting; if so, in what capacity.

Notice given 8 April 2002

222 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Special Minister of State—With reference to travel undertaken to Melbourne between 1 October 2001 and 18 November 2001, by all staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*, in each instance can the following details be provided:

- (1) The name of each staff member, and the name of the member or senator for whom that staff member worked.
- (2) The dates for which travel allowance (TA) was claimed, including whether the claim was for consecutive nights.
- (3) The rate of TA paid and the total amount of TA paid to each staff member relating to that period.

- (4) The dates of airline flights taken to and from Melbourne by that staff member during that period.
- (5) Whether the staff member claimed for commercial or non-commercial accommodation, and the name of hotels stayed at by the staff member (if known).
- (6) The cost of any Cabcharge and/or other hire car charges, including Comcar.
- (7) The name and position of the person who certified the TA claim form and/or acquittal submitted to the Department of Finance and Administration.

Notice given 18 April 2002

Senator O'Brien: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 247-273)—

- (1) What programs and/or grants administered by the department provide assistance to people living in the federal electorate of Kennedy.
- (2) What was the level of funding provided through these programs and/or grants for the 2000-01 and 2001-02 financial years.
- (3) Where specific projects were funded: (a) what was the location of each project; (b) what was the nature of each project; and (c) what was the level of funding for each project.

271 Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer

Notice given 2 July 2002

411 **Senator Evans:** To ask the Minister for Defence—With reference to all forms of end product report by the Defence Signals Directorate (DSD reports) which summarise raw intelligence product:

- (1) Which ministers received any of the DSD reports that were found by the Inspector-General to be in breach of the Rules on Sigint and Australian Persons.
- (2) On what precise dates did this occur.
- (3) Which minister's offices, that is personal staff members or departmental liaison officers, received the DSD reports that were in breach of the Rules on Sigint and Australian Persons.
- (4) On what precise dates did this occur.
- (5) Did any departments receive any of the DSD reports that were in breach of the Rules on Sigint and Australian Persons; if so, which ones and on what dates.
- (6) For both (1) and (3), were all four DSD reports that the Inspector-General found breached the rules received by any minister or minister's office; if not, how many of the four reports were received by each of the ministers and/or minister's office.
- (7) Of those reports that were made in breach of the rules and were received by a minister and/or minister's office, did they include either of the two reports containing intelligence information on communications by an Australian lawyer with a foreign client.

(In this question, the phrase 'DSD reports' refers to all forms of end product by the DSD which summarise raw intelligence product. Such reports are variously referred to in the summary of the Inspector-General for Security and Intelligence's *MV Tampa* investigation as 'reports summarising the results of collection activity', 'end product reports' and 'situation updates'.)

Notice given 22 July 2002

Senator Faulkner: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 464-481)—

- (1) How many mobile phones has the department, or any agency within the portfolio, provided to the following: (a) a minister (please include the name of the minister or ministers); (b) staff of a minister employed under the Members of Parliament (Staff) (MoP(S) Act); (c) a departmental liaison officer in a minister's office; (d) a parliamentary secretary (please include the name of the parliamentary secretary or secretaries); (e) the staff of a parliamentary secretary employed under the MoP(S) Act; and (f) a departmental liaison officer in the office of a parliamentary secretary.
- (2) What was the total cost of the provision of mobile phones to the above-named persons during the 2000-01 and 2001-02 financial years.

- 464 Minister representing the Prime Minister
 465 Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services
 466 Minister representing the Treasurer
 467 Minister representing the Minister for Trade
 468 Minister for Defence
 469 Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
 470 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs
 471 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
 472 Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs
 473 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
 474 Minister representing the Attorney-General
 475 Minister for Finance and Administration
 476 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
 477 Minister for Family and Community Services
 478 Minister representing the Minister for Education, Science and Training
 479 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
 480 Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources
 481 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Notice given 15 August 2002

Senator O'Brien: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 535-536)—What action, if any, has the Minister or the department taken to protect or increase Australian wheat sales to Iraq in the 2002-03 financial year.

- 536 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Notice given 13 September 2002

628 **Senator McLucas:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) How many applications for exceptional circumstances (EC) declarations have been lodged since 1996.
- (2) How many applications have resulted in EC declarations.
- (3) With respect to EC declarations, can the following information be provided: (a) the source of the applications (state government or peak body); (b) the

geographic regions or industries concerned; (c) the dates on which the applications were lodged; and (d) the dates on which the declarations were made.

- (4) Were any EC declarations made concerning geographic regions contained wholly or partly within the electorates of Gwydir or Wide Bay.
- (5) With respect to unsuccessful applications, can the following information be provided: (a) the source of the applications (state government or peak body); (b) the geographic regions or industries concerned; (c) the dates on which the applications were lodged; and (d) the dates on which the decisions to refuse the declarations were made.
- (6) Of the unsuccessful applications, were any made concerning geographic regions contained wholly or partly within the electorates of Gwydir or Wide Bay.
- (7) With respect to all unsuccessful applications, has the Government provided other special assistance, including *ex gratia* income support, to the regions or industries identified in the applications.
- (8) Was any such special assistance given to geographic regions contained wholly or partly within the electorates of Gwydir or Wide Bay.
- (9) Have there been any occasions since 1996 in which the Government has not accepted the recommendation of the Rural Adjustment Scheme Advisory Council (RASAC) or the National Rural Advisory Council (NRAC) in respect to EC applications; if so, can details of these occasions and the applications concerned be provided.
- (10) Have there been any occasions since 1996 in which EC applications have not been subject to an independent assessment by the RASAC or NRAC; if so, can details of these occasions and the applications concerned be provided.
- (11) In the case of each EC declaration: (a) what was the income threshold used; (b) did all applications meet the income threshold criterion; if not, can details be provided where applications for an EC declaration were made despite the income threshold not being met; and (c) for each of these applications: (i) what was the income level identified in the application, and (ii) what was the applicable income threshold.

Notice given 17 September 2002

638 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—

- (1) Is the Motomed, a therapeutic exerciser, subject to the goods and services tax (GST).
- (2) Has the Australian Taxation Office made a ruling that the Motomed is not GST-exempt.
- (3) Does the Treasurer acknowledge that the Motomed is a medically-prescribed movement therapy product specifically designed to treat profound physical disabilities and is entirely unsuited for use by able-bodied persons; if not, why not.
- (4) Will the Government take steps to amend taxation legislation to make this device GST-exempt; if so, will the Government make this amendment retrospective and provide GST refunds to the people who have already purchased this appliance.

Notice given 23 September 2002

678 **Senator Webber:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—

- (1) When will legislation be introduced that will allow for workers to be paid their entitlements ahead of banks and other creditors.
- (2) Will that legislation apply to any current liquidations.
- (3) In the case of Computerised Holdings Pty Ltd, did the liquidator identify the cause of liquidation as being insolvent trading; if so, why did the Australian Securities and Investment Commission not prosecute.
- (5) What are the criteria being used for making claims against the liquidator in the case of Computerised Holdings.
- (6) Is it intended that legal advice be sought on any distribution of assets ahead of the payment of workers' entitlements.

Notice given 24 September 2002

682 **Senator Sherry:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—For each month of the past 2 full calendar years, what are the figures for staff absent on stress leave in the Department of the Treasury.

687 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—

- (1) Does the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) investigate instances of profiteering in relation to grains, fodder and other livestock animal feeds; if so, how many instances of profiteering in relation to grains, fodder and other livestock animal feeds have been investigated in each of the past 10 financial years.
- (2) How many prosecutions have been obtained in each of the past 10 financial years for profiteering from grains, fodder or other foodstuffs used as livestock feed.
- (3) How many convictions have been obtained in each of the past 10 financial years for profiteering from grains, fodder or other foodstuffs used as livestock feed.
- (4) What are the current penalties for profiteering from grains, fodder or other foodstuffs used as livestock feed.
- (5) Have these penalties changed within the past 10 years; if so, can details of these changes be provided.

Notice given 15 October 2002

778 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) (a) Was the Minister or his office contacted by the proponents of a steel profiling plant at Moruya, New South Wales, listed in the Dairy Regional Assistance Program project summary of round 6 for the 2001-02 financial year; and (b) was the Minister or his office contacted by any person on behalf of the proponents of the above project.
- (2) Was the Minister or his office contacted by the Federal Member for Eden Monaro (Mr Nairn) in relation to the above project.
- (3) Was the Minister or his office contacted by any member of the South East New South Wales Area Consultative Committee in relation to the above project.

- (4) Was the Minister or his office contacted by the Minister for Transport and Regional Services, or his staff, or officers of the Department of Transport and Regional Services in relation to the above project.
- (5) With reference to any contact by the persons listed above with the Minister or his office: (a) when did each communication take place; (b) who was involved in each communication; (c) what was the nature of each communication; (d) what was the form of each communication; and (e) which officers from the department were involved in any way in these contacts.

779 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) (a) Was the Minister or his office contacted by Australian Solar Timbers about an application for funding through the Dairy Regional Assistance Program for the development of a short floor manufacturing project in Kempsey; and (b) was the Minister or his office contacted by any person on behalf of the proponents of the above project.
- (2) Was the Minister or his office contacted by the Federal Member for Lyne (Mr Vaile) in relation to the above project.
- (3) Was the Minister or his office contacted by any member of Australia's Holiday Coast Area Consultative Committee in relation to the above project.
- (4) Was the Minister or his office contacted by the Minister for Transport and Regional Services, or his staff, or officers of the Department of Transport and Regional Services in relation to the above project.
- (5) With reference to any contact by the persons listed above with the Minister or his office: (a) when did each communication take place; (b) who was involved in each communication; (c) what was the nature of each communication; (d) what was the form of each communication; and (e) which officers from the department were involved in any way in these contacts.

Notice given 7 November 2002

867 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) What assessment has been made of Australia's actual environmental and economic loss from the incursion of marine pests.
- (2) What assessment has been made of the potential environmental and economic loss from the incursion of marine pests.
- (3) What contribution has the department made to the development of a national management system for managing marine pests.
- (4) Which stakeholders have participated in the development of a national management system.
- (6) When will a national management system be implemented.

Notice given 8 November 2002

879 **Senator Sherry:** To ask the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer—With reference to the following information in the 2001-02 Annual Report of the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA), tabled on 23 October (and

where APRA cannot disclose names and other sensitive information relating to particular cases can as much other detail as possible be provided):

- (a) the statement on page 8 that in December 2001 APRA accepted an enforceable undertaking from a superannuation fund for the first time: can APRA provide details of: (i) that enforceable undertaking and all subsequent enforceable undertakings, including any breaches of the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993, (ii) any other problems involved, and (iii) the specific commitments made by the trustee(s) in these undertakings;
- (b) the statements on page 9 that in June 2002 APRA commenced prosecutions against trustees of regulated superannuation entities who failed to lodge an annual return for 2000-01 and on page 27 that 13 trustees had been referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions and two successfully charged: (i) have any further charges been made, and (ii) have any trustees been convicted for offences named in these charges, if so, what penalties have been imposed;
- (c) the statement on page 21 that APRA is currently reviewing the operations of a number of multi-employer corporate superannuation funds: can APRA provide details of: (i) the problems it has encountered in such funds, and (ii) any enforcement actions to date, particularly in relation to the equal representation requirements in the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993;
- (d) the list on page 24 of enforcement activities undertaken during the year: can APRA provide details of the specific breaches of the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993, or other APRA-enforced conditions, that gave rise to each of these enforcement activities;
- (e) the statement on page 40 that a number of joint visits to financial institutions were conducted with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) in 2001 as part of an APRA review of unit pricing in the superannuation industry: can APRA provide details of this review including: (i) any problems encountered, (ii) actions taken by trustees to address these problems, and (iii) enforcement actions taken by APRA or ASIC; and
- (f) the noting on page 41 of the establishment of the International Network of Pensions Regulators and Supervisors (INPRS): can APRA provide further details of: (i) the INPRS activities, and (ii) APRA's contribution to date.

Notice given 11 November 2002

886 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) What recommendations were contained in the Rural Economic Services review of the AAA-Farm Management Deposit scheme, completed in June 2002.
- (2) Have these recommendations been adopted by the Government; if so, when were the recommended changes adopted; if not, why have the recommendations been rejected.
- (3) What did the review cost.
- (4) Can a copy of the review be provided; if not, why not.

Notice given 21 November 2002

954 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—

- (1) On what date did the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet first become aware that some Farm Management Deposit (FMD) products may not comply with legislation applicable to the Government's FMD scheme.
- (2) (a) What was the source of this information; and (b) in what form was this information conveyed, for example, correspondence, e-mail, telephone conversation or direct conversation.
- (3) What was the nature of the problem specifically identified in this information.
- (4) On what date did the department inform the Prime Minister, or his office, of this problem.
- (5) Did the Prime Minister, or his office, receive advice about this problem from a source other than the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; if so: (a) on what date was this information first received; (b) what was the source of this information; (c) in what form was this information conveyed; and (d) what was the nature of the problem specifically identified in this information.
- (6) (a) On what date, or dates, did the department take action in response to this identified problem; and (b) what action did the department take.
- (7) (a) What departments, agencies, banks or non-bank financial institutions did the department communicate with in relation to this matter; (b) on what date, or dates, did that communication occur; and (c) what form did that communication take.
- (8) (a) What responses, if any, has the department received in respect to those communications; (b) in what form have those responses been received; and (c) what was the content of those responses.
- (9) What action has the department taken in response to communications from departments, agencies, banks or non-bank financial institutions.
- (10) Was the Prime Minister aware when he spoke to the Committee for Economic Development of Australia, on 20 November 2002, about the FMD scheme, of:
 - (a) the report on page 3 of the Australian Financial Review, of 20 November 2002, stating that the Government 'has been forced to seek an Australian Taxation Office ruling over a potential legal flaw in its \$2 billion farm management deposit scheme'; and/or
 - (b) evidence given by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee, on 20 November 2002, that the department had been aware of uncertainty over some FMD products since July 2001.

Notice given 26 November 2002

959 **Senator Conroy:** To ask the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer—With respect to those persons who hold private health insurance which is eligible for the 30 per cent private health insurance rebate and who receive the benefit of the rebate as a rebate through the tax system:

- (1) How many persons are covered by private health insurance by postcode and by federal electorate division, as at: (a) 31 December 2000; (b) 30 June 2002; and (c) the most current date for which information has been compiled.

- (2) How many contributor units hold private health insurance by postcode and by federal electorate division, as at: (a) 31 December 2000; (b) 30 June 2002; and (c) the most current date for which information has been compiled.

Notice given 29 November 2002

973 **Senator Sherry:** To ask the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer—

- (1) How many matters relating to insolvencies or external administrations in which applications were made for payment of entitlements under the Federal Government's Employee Entitlements Support Scheme or General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme have been referred by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations to each of: (a) the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC); and (b) the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).
- (2) In each matter, what concerns were identified.
- (3) What was the outcome of the ASIC's and the ACCC's consideration of each of these matters.

Notice given 3 December 2002

980 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) Is the Government examining options for tracking livestock via systems such as a national livestock identification system.
- (2) Which identification systems has the Government examined in the past 5 years.
- (3) What was the quantum of funding spent by the department during each of the past 5 financial years on feasibility studies on national livestock identification systems.
- (4) What was the quantum of funding spent by the department on feasibility studies of each system examined in past 5 financial years.
- (5) Is the Minister aware of any meetings between the department, and state and territory departments on the issue of a national approach to livestock identification in the past 2 years.
- (6) (a) When did these meetings occur; (b) who attended each meeting; (c) what was discussed at each meeting; and (d) what records have been kept of the discussion at these meetings.

Notice given 11 December 2002

1026 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) Can a full list be provided of real property owned by the department, indicating: (a) the address; (b) the type of property (for example, vacant building etc.); (c) the size of the property; and (d) the property valuation.
- (2) Can a full list be provided of the real property sold by or on behalf of the department in the 2002-03 financial year, indicating: (a) the address; (b) the type of property (for example, vacant building etc.); (c) the size of the property; (d) the type of sale (auction or advertised price); (e) the date of sale; (f) the reason for the sale; and (g) the price obtained.

- (3) Can a full list be provided of the real property proposed to be sold by or on behalf of the department in the 2002-03 financial year, indicating: (a) the address; (b) the type of property (for example, vacant building etc.); (c) the size of the property; (d) the type of sale proposed (auction or advertised price); (e) the expected price range; and (f) the likely timing of the sale.
- (4) Can a full list be provided of real property currently leased by the department, indicating: (a) the owner of the property; (b) the address; (c) the type of property; (d) the size of property; (e) the length of current lease; (f) the value of the lease; (g) the departmental activities conducted at the property; and (h) any sub-leases entered into at the property, including details of: (i) the name of sub-tenants; (ii) the length of sub-leases; (iii) the value of sub-leases; and (iv) the nature of sub-tenant activities.

Notice given 17 January 2003

Senator O'Brien: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 1090-1120)—

- (1) What programs and/or grants administered by the department provide assistance to the people living in the federal electorate of Gippsland.
- (2) When did the delivery of these programs and/or grants commence.
- (3) What funding was provided through these programs and/or grants for the people of Gippsland in each of the following financial years: (a) 1999-2000; (b) 2000-01; and (c) 2001-02.
- (4) What funding has been appropriated for these programs and/or grants in the 2002-03 financial year.
- (5) What funding has been appropriated and/or approved under these programs and/or grants to assist organisations and individuals in the electorate of Gippsland in the 2002-03 financial year.

1102 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

1116 Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer

1120 Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation

Notice given 17 February 2003

1163 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) With reference to the Minister's media release of 19 July 2001 announcing a 3-year project to examine the feasibility of segregating genetically-modified products across their entire production chains: what are the specific stated objectives of this study.
- (2) Does the study deal with issues of food safety and food quality; if so, how.
- (3) Does the study deal with making sure that products are identified to meet labelling laws and to preserve the identity of products in the market place; if so, how.
- (4) How specifically do the objectives of the study announced on 19 July 2001 differ from those of the four case studies announced on 10 February 2003.

1168 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to the Minister's joint statement of 11 February 2003, reference AFFA03/023WTJ, regarding the \$5.3 million water saving pilot program in the Murrumbidgee Valley:

- (1) What are the specific stated objectives of the pilot program as presented to the Commonwealth by Pratt Water and upon which Commonwealth funding was approved.
- (2) Can a copy be provided of the Pratt Water proposal upon which Commonwealth funding was approved; if not, why not.
- (3) What is the total budgeted cost of the pilot program.
- (4) Which Commonwealth departments are contributing to the funding of the pilot program; and (b) how much will each department contribute.
- (5) Which non-government organisations or individuals are contributing to the pilot program and what is their budgeted contribution.
- (6) (a) When will the pilot program commence; and (b) when is it due to be completed.
- (7) In relation to the joint media statement, which quotes Mr Pratt as saying that his 'company has contributed significant resources to get the proposal to its current stage of development and is contributing key staff to manage the project': (a) what is the quantum and exact type of resources Mr Pratt is referring to; (b) what is the number of staff Pratt Water will contribute to the management of this project; and (c) what are the names and qualifications of those staff.
- (8) Where exactly in the Murrumbidgee Valley the pilot program will be conducted.
- (9) (a) What consultations have been undertaken with residents within the Murrumbidgee Valley; and (b) who will be affected by the pilot program.
- (10) If no consultations have yet taken place: (a) when will these consultations take place; and (b) how will these consultations be conducted.

Notice given 25 February 2003

1202 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to the department's evidence to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee on 10 February 2003 concerning under-reporting of executive remuneration in the department's 2000-01 and 2001-02 financial statements:

- (1) On what day did the department seek advice from the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) about whether the under-reporting constituted a 'material breach'.
- (2) Which officer sought that advice.
- (3) Was the request oral or written.
- (4) On what day did the ANAO provide advice to the department.
- (5) Which officer provided this advice.
- (6) What was the content of this advice.
- (7) Was this advice oral or written.
- (8) If oral, can confirmation of this advice be provided; if not, why not.
- (9) If written, can a copy of this advice be provided.
- (10) Has the department sought advice from the ANAO on whether it is necessary to issue a corrigendum to the 2000-01 and 2001-02 financial statements: (a) if so: (i) on what day was this advice sought, (ii) which officer sought this advice, and (iii) was the request for this advice oral or written; and (b) if not, (i) from which agency was this advice sought,

(ii) which officer sought this advice, and (iii) was the request oral or written.

- (11) On what day was advice on the matter of the corrigendum received.
- (12) What was the content of this advice.
- (13) Was this advice oral or written.
- (14) Which officer and agency provided this advice.
- (15) What specific change to departmental procedures has occurred since the under-reporting of executive remuneration was revealed in November 2002.

1203 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to the department's portfolio additional estimates statements for the 2002-03 financial year:

- (1) Why has the estimate of revenue from the all milk levy increased by \$5 509 000 from \$30 000 000 to \$35 509 000.
- (2) Can the data for the revised estimate be provided.

1204 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to the Minister's media statement AFFA03/033WT:

- (1) To what time period does the expenditure in the 'EC Expenditure' column relate.
- (2) Can an explanation of the figures, including a state and financial year breakdown, be provided.

1208 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—What was the date of formation and what is the composition of the following committees involving departmental staff working on the development of a free trade agreement between the United States of America and Australia: (a) Deputy Secretary-Level Committee; (b) Officials Committee on Agriculture; and (c) Industry-Government Committee.

1209 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) On what date did the department first receive a request from the Department of Finance and Administration (DOFA) for payment of \$1 144.64 relating to the Minister's police escort during a 2002 visit to the Philippines.
- (2) On what dates have the department and DOFA communicated in relation to this matter.
- (3) Has the department complied with the request from DOFA for payment of this account; if so, when was the account paid; if not, why not.
- (4) Did the negotiation of heavy traffic facilitated by the police escort enable the Minister to attend his key meetings on time.

1211 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—In relation to the administration of Australia's United States (US) beef quota:

- (1) Why is it that the US Customs figures do not correspond with export figures maintained by the department for the 2002 quota year.
- (2) What are the details of the 5 500 tonne discrepancy for the 2002 quota year, on a month-by-month basis.

- (3) When did the department first become aware that the Australian quota would be under-filled for the 2002 quota year.
- (4) How will the 5 500 tonnes of quota be allocated.
- (5) On what date or dates did the department consult with US authorities on this proposal.
- (6) (a) On what date or dates did the department consult with Australian beef exporters on this proposal; and (b) which exporters were consulted.
- (7) What action has been taken to ensure the discrepancy between Australian and US export figures does not recur in the 2003 quota year.

Notice given 18 March 2003

Senator O'Brien: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 1270-1272)—With respect to the additional \$8 per passenger increase in the Passenger Movement Charge that came into effect on 1 July 2001 to fund increased passenger processing costs as part of Australia's response to the threat of the introduction of foot and mouth disease:

- (1) What was the total additional revenue raised by this extra \$8 in each of the following financial years: (a) 2001-02; and (b) 2002-03 to date.
- (2) What is the total additional revenue estimated to be raised by this extra \$8 in each of the following financial years: (a) 2002-03; (b) 2003-04; (c) 2004-05; and (d) 2005-06.
- (3) What was the total amount of Passenger Movement Charge collected at each airport and port for each of the following financial years: (a) 2001-02; and (b) 2002-03 to date.
- (4) What is the total amount of Passenger Movement Charge estimated to be collected at each airport and port for each of the following financial years: (a) 2002-03; (b) 2003-04; (c) 2004-05; and (d) 2005-06.
- (5) How much has been spent by the Government on new quarantine screening equipment at each airport and port since 1 July 2001.
- (6) (a) How much additional money has the Government spent on other quarantine processing costs at each airport and port since 1 July 2001; and (b) what services, measures or expenses comprise that additional expenditure at each airport and port.
- (7) How much additional money is estimated to be spent on new quarantine screening equipment and other processing costs respectively at each airport and port for each of the following financial years: (a) 2002-03; (b) 2003-04; (c) 2004-05; and (d) 2005-06.
- (8) (a) Which programs are administering costs associated with increased passenger processing costs as part of Australia's response to the threat of the introduction of foot and mouth disease; (b) how much has been spent, and is it estimated will be spent, from each program in each year it has or is budgeted to operate; and (c) which department is responsible for the administration of each program.
- (9) Are there any outstanding claims by any organisation or individual for expenditure on equipment or measures as part of Australia's response to the threat of foot and mouth disease; if so: (a) who are the claimants; (b) what is each claim for; and (c) will each be paid and when.
- (10) (a) How many passengers departing Australia were exempted from paying the Passenger Movement Charge; and (b) what is the legal basis and number of passengers for each category of exempted passengers.

- (11) Will the \$8 foot and mouth response component of the Passenger Movement Charge be removed, increased or reduced commensurate with the movement in costs associated with Australia's response to the threat of the introduction of foot and mouth disease; if so, when; if not, why not.

1271 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

1274 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to the Minister's statement, dated 31 October 2001, concerning support for the bio-fuels industry:

- (1) Was the statement issued during the 2001 Federal Election campaign.
- (2) Did the Minister promise that, 'the current excise exemption for fuel ethanol will be retained'.
- (3) Was the Minister consulted before the Prime Minister announced the imposition of an excise on fuel ethanol on 12 September 2002.

Senator O'Brien: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 1280-1287)—What payments, subsidies, grants, gratuities or awards have been made to the Manildra group of companies, including but not necessarily limited to Manildra Energy Australia Pty Ltd, since March 1996.

1285 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

1288 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) What has been the measurable increase in use of sugar and/or sugar by-products as feedstock for fuel ethanol since the introduction of the ethanol production subsidy on 17 September 2002.
- (2) What is the projected increase in the use of sugar and/or sugar by-products as feedstock for fuel ethanol over the 12-month life of the ethanol production subsidy introduced on 17 September 2002.

Senator O'Brien: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 1289-1290)—

- (1) What representations has the Government received from Brazil about its decision to impose a customs duty of 38.143 cents per litre on fuel ethanol and provide a subsidy to domestic ethanol producers.
- (2) (a) When were those representations received; and (b) what was the Government's response.
- (3) Has the Government received representations from countries other than Brazil about its decision to impose a customs duty of 38.143 cents per litre on fuel ethanol and provide a subsidy to domestic ethanol producers.
- (4) (a) When were those representations received; and (b) what was the Government's response.

1289 Minister representing the Minister for Trade

1290 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs

1291 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Trade—

- (1) Did any government seek consultations through the World Trade Organization in relation to the Government's decision in September 2002 to impose a customs duty of 38.143 cents per litre on fuel ethanol and provide a subsidy to domestic ethanol producers; if so: (a) on what date did each country seek consultations; and (b) on what basis were consultations sought.
- (2) Did any third party participate in these consultations.

- (3) In each case, has the matter been resolved; if so, on what date and how was the matter resolved; if not, what resolution process is underway.

Senator O'Brien: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 1292-1298)—

- (1) On what date or dates did: (a) the Minister; (b) the Minister's office; and (c) the department, become aware that Trafigura Fuels Australia Pty Ltd proposed to import a shipment of ethanol to Australia from Brazil in September 2002.
- (2) What was the source of this information to: (a) the Minister; (b) the Minister's office; and (c) the department.
- (3) Was the Minister or his office or the department requested to investigate and/or take action to prevent the arrival of this shipment by any ethanol producer or distributor or industry organisation; if so: (a) who made this request; (b) when was it made; and (c) what form did this request take.
- (4) Did the Minister or his office or the department engage in discussions and/or activities in August 2002 or September 2002 to develop a proposal to prevent the arrival of this shipment of ethanol from Brazil; if so, what was the nature of these discussions and/or activities, including dates of discussions and/or activities, personnel involved and cost.

1292 Minister representing the Prime Minister

1294 Minister representing the Minister for Trade

1295 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs

1296 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

1299 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Trade—

- (1) Did the Minister, his office and/or the department ask the Australian Embassy in Brazil in August 2002 and/or September 2002 to make enquiries about the proposed export of ethanol to Australia by Trafigura Fuels Australia Pty Ltd.
- (2) How did the Minister, his office and/or the department become aware of the proposed shipment.
- (3) On what date did the Minister, his office and/or the department become aware of the proposed shipment.
- (4) Who made this request.
- (5) Why was the request made.
- (6) Was the request made at the behest of the Prime Minister, another minister, an ethanol producer, and/or an industry organisation.
- (7) On what date was this request made.
- (8) In what form was the request made.
- (9) Who received this request.
- (10) Did the Australian Embassy in Brazil make this enquiry on behalf of the Minister, his office and/or the department; if so, on what date or dates was this enquiry made and what form did it take.
- (11) What information was provided to the Minister, his office and/or the department.
- (12) On what date and in what form was this information provided.
- (13) On what dates and to whom did the Minister, his office and/or the department communicate the information provided by the Embassy.

1300 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs—

- (1) Did the Minister receive a request from the Minister for Trade to authorise staff at the Australian Embassy in Brazil in August 2002 and/or September 2002 to gather and provide information about a proposed shipment of ethanol to Australia by Trafigura Fuels Australia Pty Ltd.
- (2) Did staff at the Australian Embassy in Brazil in August 2002 and/or September 2002 gather and provide information about a proposed shipment of ethanol to Australia by Trafigura Fuels Australia Pty Ltd; if so: (a) who requested the staff to engage in that task; (b) who authorised staff to agree to the request; (c) what action did staff take; (d) which staff engaged in the task; (e) on what date or dates did staff engage in the task; (f) what was the cost of engaging in the task; (g) to whom did the staff deliver this information in Australia; and (h) what form did that communication take.

1302 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) Has the Minister received written or oral representations from representatives of the Manildra group of companies, including but not necessarily limited to Manildra Energy Australia Pty Ltd, concerning government support for the ethanol industry; if so: (a) on what dates were those representations received; and (b) in what form were they made.
- (2) Has the Minister received written or oral representations from representatives of the Australian Bio-fuels Association concerning government support for the ethanol industry; if so: (a) on what dates were those representations received; and (b) in what form were they made.

Notice given 20 March 2003

1319 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—For each of the following financial years: 1996-97, 1997-98, 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03: (a) how many overseas trips did the minister responsible for primary industries and agriculture undertake; (b) what countries were visited on those trips; and (c) on how many of those trips was the Minister accompanied by a business delegation.

Notice given 25 March 2003

1346 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to comments by a spokesperson for the Minister, reported in AAP story number 3132, dated 24 March 2003:

- (1) Since January 2000, on how many occasions have rural groups, state agencies and veterinary surgeons been contacted by the Government about animal disease threats to Australia.
- (2) (a) What rural groups were contacted; (b) on how many occasions was each group contacted; (c) when was each contact made and who made the contact; (d) what was the nature of the disease threat that required contact with each group; and (e) what action was taken by each group and by the Government as a result of the contact.
- (3) (a) What state agencies were contacted; (b) on how many occasions was each state agency contacted; (c) when was each contact made and who made the contact; (d) what was the nature of the disease threat that required

contact with each state agency; and (e) what action was taken by each state agency and by the Government as a result of the contact.

- (4) (a) Which veterinary surgeons were contacted; (b) on how many occasions was each veterinary surgeon contacted; (c) when was each contact made and who made the contact; (d) what was the nature of the disease threat that required contact with each veterinary surgeon; and (e) what action was taken by each veterinary surgeon and by the Government as a result of the contact.

1348 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—How many consignments of genetically-modified seeds have been imported into Australia with an import permit in each of the following financial years: (a) 2001-02; and (b) 2002-03.

1349 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to public quarantine alert PQA0251:

- (1) How many consignments of genetically-modified seeds have been imported into Australia without an import permit in each of the following financial years: (a) 2001-02; and (b) 2002-03.
- (2) Have all these consignments been detected by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service.
- (3) What action was taken when these unauthorised consignments were detected.

1350 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—What are the details of the import conditions and treatment requirements that apply to imported stock feed, including but not limited to conditions C5278 and C8779 and treatment T9902.

1351 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—In respect of the 2002-03 financial year:

- (1) How many expressions of interest for the importation of grain for stock feed have been received.
- (2) (a) How many applications for the importation of grain for stock feed have been received; and (b) how many tonnes have these applications concerned.
- (3) (a) How many applications for the importation of grain for stock feed have been approved; and (b) how many tonnes have these approvals concerned.
- (4) (a) How many applications for the importation of grain for stock feed have been rejected; and (b) how many tonnes have these rejections concerned.
- (5) How many shipments of grain for stock feed have been imported.
- (6) How many tonnes have been imported.
- (7) In relation to each shipment: (a) what country and region was the source of the grain; (b) how many tonnes have been imported; (c) at what port or ports has the grain been off-loaded and on what dates; and (d) what pre-entry and post-entry quarantine measures have been applied.

1353 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to public quarantine alert PQA0221:

- (1) When did the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service review of import conditions for frozen fruit and vegetables commence.
- (2) Was the review due to be completed by 31 December 2002.
- (3) Why was the review not completed by 31 December 2002.

- (4) Has the review been completed; if so, what changes, if any, have been made to the import conditions for frozen fruit and vegetables; if not: (a) why not; and (b) when will the review be completed.

Senator O'Brien: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 1355-1356)—

- (1) Does the European Union prohibit the export of ruminant livestock from Australia; if so, when was this prohibition applied.
- (2) Has the European Union recently moved to regularise third-country trade in live animals.
- (3) Has a draft amendment to Council Decision 79/542/EEC been prepared.
- (4) When did the Minister become aware the draft amendment was in preparation.
- (5) Would the application of this amendment further restrict live animal exports from Australia to member countries of the European Union.
- (6) Has the amendment been agreed to by the European Union; if so, when was it agreed to; if not, when is it likely to be agreed to.
- (7) Has the Minister sought advice on the impact on Australian exporters of the application of this amendment; if so, what is the likely impact, including affected breeds, export volume, export value and number of affected producers and exporters.
- (8) Has the Minister made representations to the Commission of European Communities, or individual member countries of the European Union, about this matter; if so: (a) when were these representations made; and (b) what form did they take.
- (9) Has the Minister received any representations from Australian producers and/or exporters about this matter; if so: (a) when were those representations received; and (b) what form did they take.

1356 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Notice given 17 April 2003

1393 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to the Minister's statement AFFA02/289WT of 17 October 2002 announcing the provision and requirements under the Sugar Industry Reform Program relating to Sugar Enterprise Viability Assessments (SEVAs) and Sugar Enterprise Activity Plans (SEAPs):

- (1) How many applications have been received to date for the preparation of SEVAs and SEAPs from: (a) cane farmers; and (b) cane harvesters.
- (2) How many SEVAs and SEAPs have been completed to date for: (a) cane farmers; and (b) cane harvesters.
- (3) With reference to Fact Sheet SE020.0210 (page 1) accompanying the Minister's statement: (a) what are the 'special provisions' that customers who have accessed Farm Help within the past 12 months prior to claiming will be subject to; (b) how many calls have been received on the 1800 050 585 telephone number from: (i) cane farmers, and (ii) cane harvesters, querying their position regarding these 'special provisions' and the preparations of SEVAs and SEAPs; and (c) how many, (i) cane growers, and (ii) cane harvesters, have had their access eligibility for funds to pay for SEVAs or SEAPs reduced or rejected on the basis of these 'special provisions'.

- (4) What has been the total expenditure by the Commonwealth on SEVAs or SEAPs to date under the Sugar Industry Reform Program.
- (5) What is the total projected expenditure by the Commonwealth on SEVAs or SEAPs under the Sugar Industry Reform Program.

1394 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to the Minister's statement AFFA03/008WT of 5 February 2003 announcing the provision under the Sugar Industry Reform Program of the availability of sugar industry exit grants:

- (1) On what date do applications for these grants close.
- (2) How many application forms for these grants have been distributed to date.
- (3) On what date did the application form become available on a Commonwealth website.
- (4) On what date did the printed application form become available.
- (5) On what date were the first application forms mailed to potential applicants.
- (6) To date how many applications for these grants have been: (a) received; (b) rejected; and (c) approved.
- (7) What has been the total expenditure by the Commonwealth on these grants to date.
- (8) What is the total projected expenditure on these grants under the Sugar Industry Reform Program.

1395 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to the Minister's statement AFFA02/300WT of 29 October 2002 announcing the provision under the Sugar Industry Reform Program of 50 per cent interest rate subsidies over two years on loans of up to \$50,000 taken out for replanting purposes:

- (1) On what date do applications for these subsidies close.
- (2) How many application forms for these subsidies have been distributed to date.
- (3) On what date did the application form become available on a Commonwealth website.
- (4) On what date did the printed application form become available.
- (5) On what date were the first application forms mailed to potential applicants.
- (6) To date, how many applications for these subsidies have been: (a) received; (b) rejected; and (c) approved.
- (7) What has been the total expenditure by the Commonwealth on these subsidies to date.
- (8) What is the total projected expenditure on these subsidies under the Sugar Industry Reform Program.

1396 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to the Minister's statement of 10 September 2002 (reference AFFA02/233WT) announcing the provision of short-term income support measures to help stabilise the industry and to help those in immediate need:

- (1) How many applications had been received from cane farmers for these measures as at 31 December 2002 and as at 31 March 2003.
- (2) How many applications from cane farmers had been approved for these measures as at 31 December 2002 and as at 31 March 2003.

- (3) How many applications from cane farmers had been rejected for these measures as at 31 December 2002 and as at 31 March 2003.
- (4) How many applications had been received from cane harvesters for these measures as at 31 December 2002 and as at 31 March 2003.
- (5) How many applications had been approved for cane harvesters for these measures as at 31 December 2002 and as at 31 March 2003.
- (6) How many applications from cane harvesters had been rejected for these measures as at 31 December 2002 and as at 31 March 2003.
- (7) What has been the total expenditure by the Commonwealth on these measures as at 31 December 2002 and as at 31 March 2003 for: (a) cane farmers; and (b) cane harvesters.
- (8) What is the total projected expenditure under these measures for: (a) cane farmers; and (b) cane harvesters.

1397 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) (a) When did the Minister become aware that the CSIRO plant laboratories in Canberra were suspected of being infected with wheat streak mosaic virus; (b) who advised the Minister; and (c) how was the Minister advised.
- (2) (a) When did the Minister become aware that the CSIRO plant laboratories in Canberra were confirmed as being infected with wheat streak mosaic virus; (b) who advised the Minister; and (c) how was the Minister advised.
- (3) When did CSIRO first suspect that its plant laboratories in Canberra were infected with wheat streak mosaic virus.
- (4) With reference to the suspicion by CSIRO that its Canberra or other plant laboratories were infected with wheat streak mosaic virus (i.e. before the virus was confirmed as being present in the Canberra laboratories in April 2003): (a) what actions were taken by the Commonwealth (and on what dates) to advise the following stakeholders: (i) rural industry peak bodies, (ii) state government agriculture ministers and/or their departments, (iii) individual growers, (iv) appropriate government agencies within overseas trading nations, and (v) any other stakeholders; and (b) in each instance: (i) who was advised, and (ii) how were they advised.
- (5) Did the Department advise Plant Health Australia (PHA) of CSIRO's suspicion that wheat streak mosaic virus may be present in its Canberra or other plant laboratories; if so, when and how was PHA advised.
- (6) With reference to the confirmation by CSIRO that its Canberra plant laboratories were infected with wheat streak mosaic virus: (a) what actions were taken by the Commonwealth (and on what dates) to advise the following stakeholders: (i) rural industry peak bodies, (ii) state government agriculture ministers and/or their departments, (iii) individual growers, (iv) appropriate government agencies within overseas trading nations, and (v) any other stakeholders; and (b) in each instance: (i) who was advised, and (ii) how were they advised.
- (7) Did the Minister's Department advise Plant Health Australia (PHA) of CSIRO's confirmation that wheat streak mosaic virus was present in their Canberra or other plant laboratories; if so, on what day and how was PHA advised.
- (8) With reference to the suspicion by CSIRO that its Canberra plant laboratories were infected with wheat streak mosaic virus (i.e. before the

virus was confirmed as being present in April 2003) what actions were taken by the Commonwealth to trace the destination of plant seeds or other plant material from CSIRO plant laboratories in Canberra.

- (9) With reference to the confirmation by CSIRO that its Canberra plant laboratories were infected with wheat streak mosaic virus: (a) what actions were taken by the Commonwealth to trace the destination of plant seeds, or other plant material from CSIRO plant laboratories in Canberra; and (b) can a list of confirmed destinations be provided.
- (10) On what date did the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) commence investigations to determine the source of the suspected introduction of wheat streak mosaic virus into the CSIRO Canberra plant laboratories.
- (11) (a) What actions were taken by AQIS to determine the source of the introduction of wheat streak mosaic virus into the CSIRO Canberra plant laboratories; and (b) what was the outcome of those enquiries (if completed).
- (12) If AQIS has not completed its investigations, when are those investigations likely to be concluded.

1399 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to the Minister's statement AFFA02/300WT of 29 October 2002 announcing that a "levy will be placed on all domestic sugar sales (for manufacturing, food service and retail uses) at 3 cents a kilogram for approximately 5 years" (sugar tax) and that exports of refined sugar will be exempt from the levy, and that a rebate will be available for sugar used in manufactured products for export (sugar tax rebate):

- (1) How many Australian companies or other enterprises are currently paying the sugar tax.
- (2) For each of the 5 years of its proposed existence, what is the total projected amount to be collected under the sugar tax.
- (3) How much has been collected under the sugar tax to date.
- (4) How many Australian companies or other enterprises have applied for a sugar tax rebate to date.
- (5) For each of the 5 years of its proposed existence, what is the total projected amount to be repaid to Australian companies or other enterprises under the sugar tax rebate.
- (6) What steps is the Commonwealth taking to monitor the effect of the sugar tax on Australian companies or other enterprises in terms of: (a) international price competitiveness of Australian manufactured products which use sugar as an input; (b) employment growth or decline within Australian manufacturing sectors which produce goods which use sugar as an input; (c) the increase or decrease in sugar imports by Australian manufacturing sectors which produce goods which use sugar as an input; (d) the increase or decrease in sugar exports by Australian manufacturing sectors which produce goods which use sugar as an input; (e) the substitution of sugar with non-sugar products by Australian manufacturing sectors which produce goods which normally use sugar as an input; and (f) the substitution within the Australian market of the consumption of manufactured sugar bearing products manufactured in Australia with imported manufactured sugar bearing products.

- (7) What is the department's current estimate of how much the sugar tax will cost to administer for: (a) the department; and (b) industry.
- (8) What is the department's current estimate of how much the sugar tax rebate will cost to administer for: (a) the department; and (b) industry.

Notice given 22 April 2003

1403 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—

- (1) With reference to a claim made by the Prime Minister before the war that only the threat of force by the United States of America (US) allowed the United Nations Monitoring Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) weapons inspectors back into Iraq, and given that it was the threat of force by Washington which pulled the weapons inspectors out of Iraq in March 2003 before they could complete their work (as in December 1998), does the Prime Minister now concede that the threat of force failed again to disarm Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction.
- (2) What is the Government's response to the claim of the Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC, Dr Blix, that the US was guilty of 'fabricating' evidence against Iraq to justify the war, and his belief that the discovery of weapons of mass destruction had been replaced by the main objective of the US of toppling Saddam Hussein (The Guardian, 12 April 2003).
- (3) With reference to claims made by the Prime Minister before the war that there was no doubt that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and that that this was the primary reason for Australia's participation in the 'coalition of the willing', what is the Prime Minister's position now that, even after the collapse of the regime in Baghdad, no weapons of mass destruction have been found despite United States Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's claim to know where they are.
- (4) Given the Prime Minister's statements that 'regime change' was only a secondary concern for Australia, does the Government agree that the primary justification for the war may prove to be a lie.
- (5) If, as the Prime Minister repeatedly claimed, Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and Saddam Hussein could not be contained or deterred, what is the Government's analysis of why they were not used in the regime's terminal hours against the invading US, United Kingdom and Australian forces.
- (6) With reference to the Prime Minister's argument that stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction was a primary motive for Australia's participation in a war against Iraq: (a) is the Government concerned that one of the direct effects of the war may be the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to third parties, including other so called 'rogue states' and possibly terrorist groups, and (b) what analysis has the Government done of this likelihood, and (c) can details be provided.
- (7) Does the Prime Minister now regret saying just before the war (at the National Press Club and elsewhere) that Saddam Hussein could stay on in power providing he got rid of his weapons of mass destruction, thus allowing him to continue the repression of Iraqis; if so, what circumstances altered the Prime Minister's view.

Notice given 23 June 2003

Senator Brown: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 1564-1565)—

- (1) (a) Does the Minister support the integrated management of surface run-off, river water and ground water, recognising that these systems are physically interconnected; and (b) will the Minister make this a pre-requisite for water reform through the Council of Australian Governments process.
- (2) What steps are being taken to achieve integrated water management, including protection of the environment and common systems of allocating water so that switching between sources is accounted for.

1565 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Senator Webber: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 1570-1575)—

- (1) How many staff at the senior executive service (SES) level are employed in the department within Western Australia.
- (2) Given Western Australia's contribution to the nation's economy, is the department adequately represented in Western Australia to ensure that development opportunities are maximised.
- (3) Does the lack of senior Commonwealth departmental representatives or SES staff have a negative impact on Commonwealth program funds in Western Australia.
- (4) Would Western Australia be advantaged by an increase in the number of SES staff located within the state.

1572 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Notice given 3 July 2003

1600 **Senator Bartlett:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) Has the Minister authorised the aerial baiting of pests using 1080 on Commonwealth land in Western Australia in the past 12 months; if so: (a) where was the aerial baiting conducted or where will it be conducted; and (b) when was the aerial baiting conducted or when will it be conducted.
- (2) Has the aerial baiting program been referred to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

Notice given 7 July 2003

1606 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) What was the quantum of funding provided to the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) by the department for each of the following financial years: (a) 1997-98; (b) 1998-99; (c) 1999-2000; (d) 2000-01; (e) 2001-02; and (f) 2002-03.
- (2) What was the quantum of funding provided by the GRDC to the Gene Technology Grains Council (GTGC) for each of the financial years mentioned in (1).
- (3) What role does the department or the GRDC play in the selection of members to the GTGC.
- (4) In what way is the GRDC accountable to the Minister for expenditure made to the GTGC.
- (5) Can a synopsis be provided for each GTGC member, including: (a) full name; (b) details of formal qualifications; (c) details of current industry

experience and employment; (d) details of past industry experience and employment; (e) details of the process of selection; and (f) term of membership.

- (6) Are members of the GTGC required to disclose their financial interests to the Government as a means of preventing any perception of a conflict of interest; if so, can a copy of the current register of interests be supplied; if not, why not.

Notice given 10 July 2003

1619 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) What has been the total Commonwealth funding given to Telstra since the Coalition came to government.
- (2) Given that Telstra is 49 per cent privately-owned, does the Commonwealth funding given to Telstra provide a benefit to these private shareholders; if so, what is the rationale for funding the private half of the company.

Notice given 22 July 2003

1644 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister for Defence—

- (1) (a) How many personnel recently deployed to Iraq were in payment of a Department of Veterans' Affairs disability pension, under the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986; and (b) at what level.
- (2) What physical and medical examinations were conducted prior to departure of each person deployed to Iraq.
- (3) In the event that there is conflict between the medical assessment and the compensation assessment, what action has been or will be taken.

Notice given 28 July 2003

1668 **Senator Evans:** To ask the Minister for Defence—With reference to the Defence and Industry Advisory Council

- (1) When was the council established.
- (2) Who established the council.
- (3) For what purpose was the council established.
- (4) Can a copy of the council's terms of reference be provided.
- (5) What is the membership of the council.
- (6) What are the reporting arrangements for the council, for example: (a) to whom does it report; (b) how regularly are such reports made; and (c) what do the reports contain.
- (7) Can a list be provided of meeting dates for the council since its establishment.

Notice given 1 August 2003

1683 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs—

- (1) What is the Government's current assessment of the situation in Zimbabwe compared with its assessment at the time of the last Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

- (2) What action will the Government be requesting at the next CHOGM, scheduled for December 2003, in relation to Zimbabwe's possible re-admission to the Commonwealth.
- (3) Does the Government support Zimbabwe's expulsion from the Commonwealth.
- (4) What other options are open if the Commonwealth fails to take appropriate action to improve the situation in Zimbabwe; could options include action by the United Nations and coalitions of countries.
- (5) Would Australia be willing to send a delegation of election supervisors to Zimbabwe if the electoral challenge by opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai in November 2003 is successful.

1684 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the answer to question on notice no. 1370 concerning the northern peninsula of Research Bay, Tasmania, in which it was stated that 'sites are currently being assessed by the Tasmanian Heritage Council':

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Tasmanian Heritage Council has resolved that 'the onus of providing information which would be considered in establishing significance was a matter for the nominator(s) and accordingly it [the Heritage Council] would not be carrying out any further research'.
- (2) Given the potential and international significance of the area, does the Minister consider it adequate for an assessment by the Tasmanian Heritage Council to rely on the efforts of volunteer members of the community.
- (3) In relation to the assessment and protection of the northern peninsula of Research Bay: (a) what communication has the Commonwealth had with the Tasmanian Government, Gunns Pty Ltd and the owners of relevant land; and (b) can details be provided of correspondence and meetings, including the parties involved, dates and the matters discussed.

Notice given 8 August 2003

1747 **Senator McLucas:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to the Sustainable Regions Programme's funding to the Atherton Tablelands region.

- (1) What funds were allocated to the program.
- (2) What are the outcomes sought by the Commonwealth Government for this funding program.
- (3) How does the level of funding for the Atherton Tablelands compare with that allocated for other regions.
- (4) When was the funding for the Atherton Tablelands allocated.
- (5) Over what timeframe have the funds been allocated.
- (6) What processes have been put in place to determine that strategic holistic regional objectives are identified and met.
- (7) Will all of the \$18 million allocated which is reported to be allocated to the Atherton Tablelands, be provided; if not: (a) how much will be allocated; and (b) what amounts have been allocated over what years.
- (8) If less than \$18 million is provided, how will this be communicated to the people of the Atherton Tablelands.

- (9) Who determined the management and administrative arrangements for the Atherton Tablelands Sustainable Regions Programme
- (10) What arrangements are in place to determine the allocation of funds to particular projects.
- (11) What proportion of the funds expended by the Commonwealth have been used for administration.
- (12) Who determined the management and administrative arrangements for the Atherton Tablelands' Sustainable Regions Advisory Committee.
- (13) How was the membership of this committee determined and by whom.
- (14) (a) Who are the members of the committee; and (b) on what basis were they appointed.
- (15) (a) To whom does the committee report; (b) how frequently; and (c) in what format.
- (16) Can copies be provided of any committee reports that have been received detailing the funding allocation process or project approvals.
- (17) Can copies be provided of minutes of all committee meetings held to date.
- (18) Are committee members required to declare any interests they may have in any applications being considered; if so: (a) how many occasions has this occurred; (b) for which projects; and (c) by whom.
- (19) In relation to funding issues: (a) what funding criteria were determined; (b) by whom; and (c) how were these criteria applied in determining projects to be funded.
- (20) Can a list be provided of applications for funding received by the committee, including: (a) identification of the purpose for which funding was sought; (b) for what amount; (c) which were successful; (d) which have been rejected and why; and (e) which are still awaiting a decision.
- (21) How many full-time permanent, full-time casual, part-time permanent, part-time casual, and construction jobs will be created by each project approved for funding.
- (22) Is a contribution from the applicant required for the application to be approved.
- (23) What due diligence processes were in place to assess the financial viability of applicants.
- (24) What proportion of successful applicants to date have been private businesses or individuals.
- (25) How many cooperative funding applications from a number of associations or authorities have been received.
- (26) What accountability mechanisms are in place to ensure project objectives are achieved.
- (27) Are successful applicants required to meet key performance indicators; if so: (a) what are these; and (b) how are projects benchmarked against them.
- (28) What impact or evaluation processes have been put in place to measure the success or failure of funded projects.
- (29) What evaluation processes have been put in place to measure the success or failure of the Sustainable Regions Programme in the Atherton Tablelands region.

1816 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—

- (1) Can the Minister confirm whether the proposed fish farm development planned for Moreton Bay would need full scientific certainty pursuant to section 3A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- (2) Can the Minister confirm that the proposed fish farm is under Commonwealth jurisdiction until full scientific certainty is achieved.

Notice given 1 September 2003

1829 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—

- (1) Given that medical records from Australian Correctional Management's staff psychologist Ramesh Nair have documented the deteriorating mental health of Iraqi detainee Hasan Sabbagh, who has been held in detention since 1999: Why has the department failed to act on any of Dr Nair's recommendations.
- (2) Given that over the past three and half years, Hassan Sabbagh has applied four times to the Minister to be released from detention, with no response: How much longer will he have to wait for a response.
- (3) Given that Hassan Sabbagh's original case for protection against repatriation to Iraq has never been heard and yet the department wants to deport him back to Iraq: Is this against the International Refugee Convention.

Notice given 2 September 2003

1835 **Senator Evans:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the ex-Defence lands managed by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust:

- (1) Were there any valuations done on any of the sites prior to the transfer from the Department of Defence to the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.
- (2) What was the valuation for each of the sites managed by the Trust.
- (3) (a) Who undertook these valuations; and (b) when were they undertaken.
- (4) What is the estimated current valuation for each of the sites being managed by the Trust.
- (5) (a) Was there any valuation of the cost of the remediation works that were required at each of the ex-Defence sites being managed by the Trust; and (b) what was the amount of these valuations.
- (6) For each financial year to date: How much has been spent on remediation and environmental works at each of the ex-Defence sites now managed by the Trust.
- (7) When is it expected that all remediation work at the ex-Defence sites will be completed.
- (8) What is the process by which the ex-Defence sites will be transferred to the State of New South Wales following completion of remediation works at these sites.
- (9) (a) Will the sites then become part of the Sydney Harbour National Park, under the management of the New South Wales Government; and (b) when is it expected that this will occur.

1836 **Senator Evans:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—

- (1) How much funding has the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust received from the Commonwealth Government in each financial year since its establishment.
- (2) Does this include the initial funding of \$96 million that the Trust received as part of the Federation Fund.
- (3) Can a breakdown be provided of how this funding has been spent for each financial year since the Trust was established.
- (4) Can a breakdown be provided of how the \$96 million allocated to the Trust as part of the Federation Fund was spent.
- (5) Can a breakdown be provided of every payment greater than \$1 million made by the Trust since its establishment.
- (6) (a) When is it expected that the work of the Trust will be completed; and (b) will the Trust be closed down once its work is completed.
- (7) What are the forecasts for Commonwealth funding to the Trust for the next 4 financial years.
- (8) Has the New South Wales Government made any financial contributions to the Trust at any time since its establishment; if so, can a list be provided of these contributions (i.e. date, amount, purpose etc.).
- (9) Is it expected that the New South Wales Government will make any financial contributions to the Trust at any time over the next 4 years.
- (10) When the remediation work being undertaken at the ex-Defence sites managed by the Trust is fully completed, and the lands are transferred to the State of New South Wales, will the New South Wales Government have to pay any money to the Commonwealth in respect of the transfer; if not, why not.

Notice given 8 September 2003

1935 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister for Defence—

- (1) How many instances were there in each of the past 3 years of explosives being stolen from Defence establishments.
- (2) In how many instances in the same years were there incomplete reconciliations of stock holdings.
- (3) In each case, what was stolen and in what quantity.
- (4) (a) What regular process exists for the routine reconciliation of explosive supplies; and (b) what is the reporting and coordination process.
- (5) What quantities of explosives, by type, were purchased in each of the past 2 financial years.
- (6) In how many locations around Australia are explosives stored.
- (7) What accountability for stocks of explosives exists to security agencies at both federal and state levels.

Notice given 9 September 2003

1937 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—For each of the past 10 years: (a) how much federal funding has been allocated to environment groups in Australia; and (b) how much went to each environment group which was funded, directly or indirectly.

Senator Brown: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 1944-1945)—With reference to wheat streak mosaic virus:

- (1) Has the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation or any other Australian research organisation, ever imported the virus for research or any other purpose: if so; (a) who licenced and monitored importation of the virus; (b) when was the virus imported; (c) by what means was the virus imported; (d) by what route was the virus imported and transported; (e) in which facilities is, or in which facilities was, the virus stored and used; (f) has the virus been transported to other facilities; (g) has the virus imported under OGTR/GMAC1507 been destroyed; (h) who is or was responsible for containing and managing the virus; (i) has the Office of the Gene Technology Regulation (OGTR) ever inspected, assessed or approved any facilities in which the organisms licenced under GMAC1507 are stored or used; if so, what were the results of those inspections; (j) is there any evidence that the virus may have escaped from storage or research facilities into any other environments; (k) is there any evidence that the virus, licenced by OGTR/GMAC1507 or any other research project using the virus, may be the source of infections recently identified in wheat plants in various research facilities around Australia.
- (2) If the virus was used for research or other purposes in Australia, what evidence shows that this was not the source of the current infection in wheat at various locations, which threatens the Australian wheat industry.

1944 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Notice given 10 September 2003

1974 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation—With reference to the answer to paragraph (3)(a) of question on notice no. 565 (Senate *Hansard*, 11 November 2002, p. 6016):

- (1) Was the alleged broadcasting of bogus Emergency Position Indicating Rescue Beacon signals by the *Volga* to assist the illegal fishing vessel the *Lena* to evade hot pursuit by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority contracted *Southern Supporter* subject to investigation by Australian authorities; if so, what was the outcome of the investigation and do current charges against the crew of the *Volga* relate to this alleged activity; if no investigation has been undertaken, why not.
- (2) Was the alleged broadcasting of bogus Emergency Position Indicating Rescue Beacon signals by the *Florence* during the *Southern Supporter's* hot pursuit of the illegal fishing vessel the *Lena*, and the *Florence's* alleged re-fuelling of the *Lena*, subject to investigation by Australian authorities; if so, what was the outcome of this investigation and what legal action, if any, has been initiated against the crew of the *Florence*; if no investigation has been undertaken, why not.

1976 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation—

- (1) What companies have been issued with a licence to fish in the Heard and McDonald Island Fishery.
- (2) In relation to each company: (a) what is its registered address; and (b) when was the licence issued and, if applicable, renewed.
- (3) (a) What total allowable catch, by species, is each licence holder allocated; and (b) in relation to each licence holder, have catch limits been varied; if so, when and what is the nature of the variation.

1983 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation—
With reference to the answer to question on notice no. 730 (*Senate Hansard*, 10 December 2003, p. 7659):

- (1) Has Australia finalised an agreement with France on combating illegal fishing in Australia's sub-Antarctic exclusive economic zones; if so when was the agreement finalised and what are the details of the agreement; if not: (a) why not; (b) what negotiations have been undertaken since the Minister advised in his answer that a proposed draft text was agreed; (c) were negotiations progressed during the Minister's meeting with the French Minister for Overseas Territories in Paris in June 2003; (d) have negotiations included consideration of joint use of French facilities or French patrols of Australian waters; (e) what future negotiations are planned; and (f) when does the Minister expect the agreement will be finalised and active.
- (2) Has a cooperative arrangement to combat illegal fishing been negotiated with South Africa; if so, when was the arrangement finalised and what are the details of the arrangement; if not: (a) what negotiations have been undertaken since the Minister wrote to his South African counterpart in September 2002 initiating formal discussions; (b) what future negotiations are planned; and (c) when does the Minister expect a cooperative arrangement will be finalised.

1986 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation—

- (1) What specific outcomes beneficial to Australian fisheries management can be attributed to the Minister's attendance at the fisheries roundtable organised by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation, held in Paris in June 2003.
- (2) Can an English-language communiqué of the roundtable be provided.
- (3) Which French Ministers did the Minister meet to discuss illegal fishing in the Southern Ocean around Australia's Heard and McDonald Islands and France's Kerguelen Island.
- (4) What new measures did the French Ministers propose to facilitate surveillance and apprehension of boats illegally fishing in Australian and French waters in the Southern Ocean.
- (5) What new measures did the Minister propose to the French Ministers.
- (6) When did the Minister depart Australia for the roundtable visit.
- (7) When did the Minister return to Australia.
- (8) Who accompanied the Minister on this trip.
- (9) Can the details of the Minister's official itinerary be provided.
- (10) (a) What was the total cost of the Minister's visit to Paris, including departmental officers and ministerial staff; and (b) which department or departments met these costs.

1990 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation—

- (1) When were Australian authorities first made aware of alleged, actual or intended illegal fishing activity by the vessel the *Viarsa* in Australian waters near the Heard and McDonald Islands (HIMI).
- (2) What was the source of the information.

- (3) When did Australian authorities authorise the Australian Fisheries Management Authority-contracted vessel the *Southern Supporter* to intercept the *Viarsa*.
- (4) Where and when did the *Southern Supporter* first locate the *Viarsa*.
- (5) (a) What action, pursuant to what international or domestic law, did the *Southern Supporter* order the *Viarsa* to undertake; (b) when was this order made; and (c) what was the *Viarsa*'s response.
- (6) (a) Were the *Viarsa*'s identifiers displayed at the time it was located by the *Southern Supporter*; if so, were these identifiers later removed and when.
- (7) When and how did the *Viarsa* first identify itself to the *Southern Supporter*.
- (8) Was authorisation from a Minister or departmental officer required before the *Southern Supporter* commenced its hot pursuit of the *Viarsa*; if so: (a) when was this authorisation requested; (b) when was it provided; and (c) who provided it.
- (9) When did the 'hot pursuit' of the *Viarsa* by the *Southern Supporter* commence.
- (10) Why did the Minister not announce the commencement of the pursuit until 12 August 2003.
- (11) With reference to the Minister's statement on 13 May 2003 concerning armed enforcement in HIMI, was the *Southern Supporter* armed; if not, what capacity did the *Southern Supporter* have to apprehend the *Viarsa* without additional enforcement assistance.
- (12) Was the Department of Defence asked to provide logistical or enforcement assistance in the interception of the *Viarsa*; if so: (a) when was the request made; (b) what was the department's response; and (c) what assistance was provided.
- (13) (a) When did the Australian Government first make direct representations to the Uruguayan Government urging it to exercise its flag state responsibilities and require the *Viarsa* to accompany the *Southern Supporter* to the nearest Australian port; (b) what form did those representations take; (c) what was the Uruguayan Government's initial response and when was that response received; (d) did the Uruguayan Government consent to Australia's request that the *Viarsa* be ordered to accompany the *Southern Supporter*; (e) did the Uruguayan Government order the *Viarsa* to accompany the *Southern Supporter* to an Australian port; if so, when was that order made and what is the source of that information.
- (14) (a) What subsequent representations did the Government make to the Uruguayan Government prior to the vessel's apprehension; (b) what was the Uruguayan Government's response to these representations; (c) when did the Minister make direct contact with the Uruguayan Minister for Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries; (d) what assistance did the Minister seek; (e) how did the Uruguayan Minister respond to the Minister's request for assistance; and (f) what assistance has the Uruguayan Embassy in Canberra provided in the *Viarsa* matter.
- (15) Did the Uruguayan Government order the *Viarsa* to return to Montevideo; if so, when was that order made and what is the source of the information.
- (16) (a) When was the Minister and/or his department informed that a Uruguayan Government official was aboard the *Viarsa*; (b) what was the source of this information; (c) what is the name of the Uruguayan

Government official and what position does the official hold; (d) what representations has the Government made to the Uruguayan Government in this matter; (e) what was the Uruguayan Government's response; (f) when did the Uruguayan official board the *Viarsa*.

- (17) (a) What representations has the Government received from the Uruguayan Government since the vessel's apprehension; and (b) how has Australia responded to those representations.
- (18) When did the Government first alert the secretariat of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) of the alleged illegal fishing activity by the *Viarsa*.
- (19) (a) What assistance did the Government, through its secretariat, ask members of CCAMLR to provide in relation to the *Viarsa*; (b) when was that assistance sought; and (c) what assistance, by country, was provided.
- (20) (a) When did the Government first make direct representations to the South African Government seeking assistance in the apprehension of the *Viarsa*; (b) what request did the Government make; (c) what response did the South African Government provide and when was it received; (d) when was the Government informed that the *SA Agulhas* would be directed to intercept the *Viarsa*; and (e) when did the *SA Agulhas* join the "hot pursuit" of the *Viarsa*.
- (21) (a) When did the Government initiate commercial negotiations on the hire of the tug boat *John Ross* to assist in the apprehension of the *Viarsa*; (b) when did the tug commence pursuit of the *Viarsa*; (c) what was the composition of the crew aboard the tug; (d) did the tug operate under Australian command; (e) what was the total cost of the tug hire; (f) was the cost of hiring the tug reduced as a result of Australia's cooperative relationship with the South African Government on illegal fishing matters; and (g) what total cost is payable to South African interests for assistance in the *Viarsa* matter.
- (22) (a) When did the Government first make direct representations to the United Kingdom Government seeking assistance in the apprehension of the *Viarsa*; (b) what request did the Government make; (c) what response did the United Kingdom Government provide and when was it received; (d) what assistance did the United Kingdom Government provide; and (e) what total cost is payable to United Kingdom interests for assistance in the *Viarsa* matter.
- (23) When and where was the apprehension of the *Viarsa* effected.
- (24) (a) What was the number and composition of the crew aboard the *Viarsa* upon its apprehension; (b) has the Government made representations to other governments on the presence of their nationals aboard the *Viarsa*; if so, what representations has the Government made and what was the response.
- (25) What fish and equipment was allegedly found aboard the vessel.
- (26) (a) What progress has been made in the investigation into the *Viarsa's* conduct in Australian waters; and (b) where is the vessel and its crew currently located.
- (27) What arrangements has the government made for the disposal of fish allegedly found aboard the vessel.
- (28) How has the Government recognised the performance of the Australian officers involved in the pursuit and apprehension of the *Viarsa*.

- (29) What was the cost of the operation to apprehend the *Viarsa*.
- (30) What total cost has the Government incurred in the *Viarsa* matter, including the cost of pre-pursuit and post-apprehension operations.
- (31) Will the cost of the *Viarsa* operation be met from the \$12 million budget allocation for Southern Ocean fisheries enforcement in the 2003-04 financial year, announced by the Minister on 13 May 2003; if so, how will the operational plan for the 2003-04 financial year be amended to account for the *Viarsa* operation.
- (32) What provision has the Government made for Southern Ocean fisheries enforcement beyond 2003-04.

1998 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) Does the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) receive advice from Livecorp on all withdrawals of accreditation and accreditation downgrades under the Live Export Accreditation Program (LEAP).
- (2) Can details of all such accreditation withdrawals be provided for each of the following financial years; 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03, including for each withdrawal: (a) the name of the company; (b) reason for withdrawal; and (c) consequential action by AQIS.
- (3) Can details of all such accreditation downgrades be provided for each of the following financial years: 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03, including for each downgrade: (a) the name of the company; (b) change in accreditation level; (c) reason for downgrade; and (d) consequential action by AQIS.

1999 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—Which countries have banned, suspended or varied conditions of export for Australian live animals since 1996; and in each case, can details of the ban, suspension or variation, including date of action and basis of action, be provided.

2000 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) What action has been taken to investigate claims of serious animal cruelty involving Australian export cattle slaughtered at the abattoir in Bassatin, Egypt.
- (2) When did the Minister, his office and his department become aware of claims of animal cruelty at the abattoir involving Australian export cattle.
- (3) (a) What action has been taken to improve animal welfare practices at the abattoir; (b) what improved animal welfare practices have resulted from this action; and (c) what is the source of information about these improved practices.

Notice given 11 September 2003

2021 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Minister for Justice and Customs—With reference to the answer to question no. 131 taken on notice by the department during the May 2003 Budget estimates hearings of the Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee:

- (1) Who briefed the Minister on 19 August 2002 and 26 September 2002 about Marian Wilkinson's questions.
- (2) Who initiated the briefing.

- (3) Was the briefing oral or in writing.
- (4) If it was an oral briefing: (a) who briefed the Minister; (b) who else was present; (c) were minutes and/or notes taken; if so, can a copy of minutes and/or notes be provided; and (d) what action, if any, did the Minister take after he was provided with the two briefings in August and September 2002.
- (5) If it was a written briefing: (a) who prepared the brief; (b) who cleared the brief; (c) apart from the Minister, who else saw the brief; and (d) what action, if any, did the Minister take after he was provided with the two briefings in August and September 2002.

Notice given 15 September 2003

2030 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to the Minister's trip to South America in mid-2003:

- (1) When did the Minister: (a) depart Australia; and (b) return to Australia.
- (2) Who travelled with the Minister.
- (3) Who met the cost of the participants' travel and other expenses associated with the trip.
- (4) If costs were met by the department, can an itemised list of costs be provided; if not, why not.
- (5) Can the Minister's detailed itinerary be provided; if not, why not.

2032 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to the trip to the United States of America by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in mid-2003:

- (1) When did the Parliamentary Secretary: (a) depart Australia; and (b) return to Australia.
- (2) Who travelled with the Parliamentary Secretary.
- (3) Who met the cost of the participants' travel and other expenses associated with the trip.
- (4) If costs were met by the department, can an itemised list of costs be provided; if not, why not.
- (5) Can the Parliamentary Secretary's detailed itinerary be provided; if not, why not.

Senator O'Brien: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 2034-2064)—

- (1) For each of the following financial years: (a) 1996-97; (b) 1997-98; (c) 1998-99; (d) 1999-2000; (e) 2000-01; (f) 2001-02; (g) 2002-03; and (h) 2003-04, has the department or any agency for which the Minister is responsible, including boards, councils, committees and advisory bodies, made payments to the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA) for research projects, consultancies, conferences, publications and/or other purposes; if so, (i) how much each payment, (ii) when was each payment made, and (iii) what services were provided.
- (2) In relation to each research project or consultancy: (a) when was the IPA engaged; (b) for what time period; (c) what were the terms of reference; (d) what role did the Minister and/or his office have in the engagement of

the IPA; (e) was the contract subject to a tender process; if so, was it an open tender or a select tender; if not, why not.

- 2044 Minister representing the Attorney-General
- 2046 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- 2050 Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources
- 2051 Minister for Justice and Customs
- 2052 Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation
- 2054 Minister representing the Minister for Small Business and Tourism

Notice given 17 September 2003

- 2117 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Science—
- (1) Given the Minister's response to a question without notice by Senator Allison on 11 September 2003, that the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) has never found foetal risks from diagnostic ultrasound equipment, can the Minister explain the findings of animal studies carried out at the CSIRO, which clearly show that such risks exist.
 - (2) Given the Minister's claims that the CSIRO's National Measurement Laboratory (NML) will continue to maintain a standard for ultrasound equipment power after it becomes part of the National Measurement Institute in July 2004, can the Minister explain how this is possible when: (a) the work carried out at the NML was on standards for therapeutic ultrasounds, not diagnostic ultrasounds; and (b) the only scientist researching ultrasound standards at the NML, Dr Adrian Richards, has been made redundant.

Notice given 18 September 2003

- 2119 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to the discovery of live sea lice in a shipment of imported salmon on 3 September 2003:
- (1) What was the exporting country.
 - (2) When did the shipment depart.
 - (3) If not exported from the country of origin, what was the exporting country.
 - (4) What was the port of departure.
 - (5) When did the shipment arrive in Australia.
 - (6) Was Sydney the port of arrival
 - (7) What salmonid species did the shipment contain.
 - (8) When did the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) issue the permit to import quarantine material.
 - (9) When was the official certificate issued by an AQIS-recognised Competent Authority in the exporting country.
 - (10) What was the form, presentation and weight of the salmon
 - (11) What was the intended end use of the salmon, including, if applicable, commercial processing, processing for retail sale and/or direct retail sale.
 - (12) When and where did AQIS first inspect the salmon.
 - (13) When was the salmon seized.

- (14) Was the salmon ordered to be frozen, if so: (i) when was that order made, and (ii) on what date was the salmon frozen.
- (15) In relation to the sea lice analysis: (a) when did this commence and conclude; (b) where was this done; and (c) who conducted the analysis.
- (16) When was the Minister and/or his office and/or his department informed about the analysis findings; (a) what are the analysis findings, including: (i) details of the sea lice species, (ii) whether the species are usually found in Australian waters, and (iii) whether the sea lice present a quarantine risk.
- (17) (a) When did AQIS consult with Food Standards Australia New Zealand and state and territory food agencies about the salmon; (b) what state and territory food agencies were consulted; and (c) what was the nature of those consultations.
- (18) In relation to the outcome of the sea lice discovery and analysis: (a) If the salmon was released for sale: (i) when, (ii) what conditions, if any, were placed on its end use, and (iii) what was its end use; (b) if the salmon was ordered to be re-exported: (i) when was that order made, (ii) when was the salmon exported, (iii) how was the exported salmon labelled; and (iv) to what country was it exported; (c) if the salmon was ordered to be destroyed: (i) when was that order made, (ii) when and how was it destroyed.

2120 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—Can details be provided of all breaches of import conditions applying to the commercial importation of uncanned salmonid product since new quarantine conditions came into effect on 1 June 2000, including, for each breach: (a) the date of importation; (b) the nature of the breach, including: (i) failure to provide an Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) permit, (ii) failure to provide a completed official certificate issued by an AQIS-recognised competent authority, (iii) failure to remove the head and gills, and (iv) any other reasons; (c) the salmonid species; (d) the country of export; (e) if not exported from the country of origin, the country that exported the salmonid product; (f) the product presentation and form; and (g) action taken in response to the breach including, if applicable: (i) the suspension or revocation of the import permit, and (ii) the disposal or re-export of the salmonid product.

2121 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to the Plant Breeders' Rights Advisory Committee:

- (1) When in 2003 did the department seek applications for eight part-time vacancies.
- (2) In what newspapers and other media did the department place advertisements seeking applications.
- (3) How many applications did the department receive from applicants nominating qualifications in respect of the following positions designated in section 64 of the *Plant Breeders' Rights Act 1994*: (a) representatives of breeders, and likely breeders' of new plant varieties; (b) a representative of users, and likely users, of new plant varieties; (c) a representative of consumers, and likely consumers, of new plant varieties or of the products of new plant varieties; (d) a representative of conservation interests in relation to new plant varieties and the potential impacts of new plant varieties; (e) a representative of indigenous Australian interests in relation to new plant varieties and the source, use and impacts of new plant varieties; and (f) others with appropriate experience or qualifications.

- (4) How many people did the department interview in relation each designated position.
- (5) Can details be provided of each industry, consumer, conservation, indigenous and/or other organisation consulted prior to the appointment of the current committee members.
- (6) When did the Minister appoint the current members.
- (7) (a) What is the name and business address of each member; (b) what interests do they represent pursuant to section 64 of the *Plant Breeders' Rights Act 1994*.
- (8) Which organisations provided letters of support for each member.
- (9) Since its appointment, when has the current committee met.
- (10) What are the names and terms of appointment for all members of the committee since its formation in 1994.

2123 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to the answer to question on notice no. 1688 (Senate *Hansard*, 8 September 2003, p. 14043) concerning Area Consultative Committees (ACC):

- (1) Why have the ACC Handbook and the Governance Manual not been publicly released.
- (2) Can copies of the ACC Handbook and the Governance Manual be provided; if not, why not.

2138 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Science—With reference to the hiring by the department of public relations consultants to work on the proposed nuclear waste dump in South Australia in late 2002:

- (1) How many companies were: (a) sent a copy of the public relations brief; and (b) requested to submit a proposal.
- (2) How many attended a question and answer session after receiving the brief.
- (3) How many developed a written proposal.
- (4) How many presented a proposed strategy to the evaluation panel.
- (5) How many consultants were shortlisted to give a presentation before the Ministerial Committee on Government Communications.
- (6) Who are the members of this ministerial committee.

Notice given 22 September 2003

2167 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to the answer to the supplementary estimates question no. RDG04, provided to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee on 11 February 2003, containing a table of Sustainable Regions Program direct funding and other contributions:

- (1) Can an updated table be provided which includes: (a) all projects approved for funding and the approved level of funding; (b) funding already provided and the amount outstanding; and (c) the financial years in which expenditure of outstanding funds is likely to occur.
- (2) In relation to the Regional Partnerships Program: (a) how many projects have been approved for funding in the 2003-04 financial year; (b) what is the total level of funding for these projects; and (c) how much has been committed for expenditure in the following financial years: (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, and (iv) 2006-07.

- (3) In relation to projects approved prior to 1 July 2003 under the Regional Solutions Program, the Rural Transaction Centres, the Regional Assistance Program, the Dairy Regional Assistance Program, the Wide Bay Burnett Structural Adjustment Package, the Namoi Valley Package, the Weipa Electricity Generation Compensation Package and the South West Forests of Western Australia Structural Adjustment Package: (a) how much has been committed for expenditure in the 2003-04 financial year; (b) how much of the funds committed for expenditure in the 2003-04 financial year has been expended to date; and (c) how much has been committed for expenditure in the following financial years: (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06, and (iii) 2006-07.

Notice given 23 September 2003

2168 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) Can a schedule be provided of all partnerships or programs commenced within the past 3 financial years, between the department and biotechnology companies or their agents, including but not limited to AVCARE, Agrifood Awareness Australia Limited, Monsanto Australia Ltd (Monsanto) and Bayer Crop Science Australia (Bayer) or its predecessor, Aventis, including the following details for each:
- (a) the stated aim;
 - (b) the proposed duration;
 - (c) the forecast financial or in-kind contribution to be provided by the department;
 - (d) the forecast financial or in-kind contribution to be provided by the department's partners;
 - (e) the actual financial or in-kind contribution made to date by the department;
 - (f) the actual financial or in-kind contribution made to date by the department's partners; and
 - (g) for those programs that have been completed, a summary of actual outcomes as compared with the stated aim.
- (2) Can a copy of the commercial agreements entered into between the department and its partners in relation to these programs be provided; if not, why not.

2169 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) Can a schedule be provided of all partnerships, programs or funding arrangements entered into each of the past 3 financial years between the department and the Australia Oilseeds Federation (AOF), including the following details for each:
- (a) the stated aim of each partnership or program or for the funding provided by the department;
 - (b) the proposed duration of each partnership or program or for the funding provided by the department;
 - (c) the forecast financial or in-kind contribution to be provided by the department;
 - (d) the forecast financial or in-kind contribution to be provided by AOF;

- (e) the actual financial or in-kind contribution made to date by the department;
 - (f) the actual financial or in-kind contribution made to date by AOF; and
 - (g) for those programs or funding arrangements that have been completed, a summary of actual outcomes as compared with the stated aim of each program, partnership or funding arrangement.
- (2) Can a copy of the commercial agreements entered into between the department and AOF in relation to these programs or funding arrangements be provided; if not, why not.

Notice given 24 September 2003

2171 **Senator Lees:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—

- (1) Will the Minister act on unanimous advice from a range of health and social welfare agencies, including the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP), Paediatrics and Child Health Division; the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; and the Professional Alliance for the Health of Asylum Seekers and their Children that ‘prolonged detention is causing harm to the mental health and development of children and adolescents’ and that the Minister should ‘undertake an independent, expert review’ into the mental health of children held in detention in Australia’s immigration detention centres.
- (2) Will the Minister take any further action to examine and evaluate the performance of Australasian Correctional Management (ACM), with regard to the mental health and welfare of children in detention; if so, what action will the Minister take; if not, under what conditions would the Minister be prepared to conduct such an evaluation of ACM’s performance.
- (3) With reference to the Minister’s response to the May 2003 *Four Corners* program on the former Woomera Detention Centre, that ‘there is no contractual requirement for ACM to provide staffing numbers to DIMIA’ for the achievement of contracted outcomes by ACM: Given this lack of detailed accountability by ACM and the consistent reporting by social welfare and medical practitioners about the institutional barriers to the mental health and wellbeing of detainees: What steps is the Minister currently taking to ensure that ACM is now upholding Australian immigration detention standards.

Notice given 25 September 2003

2172 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) Has Basslink Pty Ltd prepared a code of conduct for commercial and recreational fishing activities, as is required for approval of the Basslink project; if so; (a) has the code been approved; and (b) can a copy of the code be provided.
- (2) With which fishing groups and individuals did the proponents consult when developing the code.
- (3) If consultations did not include Gippsland fisher’s such as those from Yarram, McLaughlin’s Beach and Lakes Entrance, why were these groups not consulted.

Notice given 29 September 2003

2173 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to the changes in seed cleaning arrangements detailed in Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) Public Quarantine Alert PQA0266, Cleaning of contaminated seed consignments in rural areas:

- (1) What steps have been taken to consult with representations of the seed industry, including, but not limited to, importers, growers and peak bodies, in developing these changes.
- (2) What steps have been taken to communicate with representatives of the seed industry, including, but not limited to, importers, growers and peak bodies, to ensure they were aware of these changes.
- (3) What work has been conducted or commissioned by the department or other Commonwealth agencies to determine: (a) potential and actual changes in costs experienced by seed importers, breeders and end users as a result of these changes, and what are the results of this work; (b) potential and actual time delays experienced by seed importers, breeders and end users as a result of these changes, and what are the results of this work; (c) potential and actual extra costs borne by the Commonwealth as a result of these changes, and what are the results of this work; and (d) potential and actual closure of or job losses at AQIS-approved seed cleaning facilities in rural areas as a result of these changes, and what are the results of this work.

2175 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) When was the Plant Breeders' Rights (PBR) Office established.
- (2) For each year since its establishment, or for each of the past 5 financial years, whichever is the lesser period, what has been: (a) the posted staffing contingent in full-time equivalents; (b) the actual staffing contingent in full-time equivalents; (c) the projected Commonwealth expenditure for operating the office; (d) the actual Commonwealth expenditure for operating the office; (e) the projected number of customer transactions to be undertaken; and (f) the actual number of customer transactions undertaken.

Notice given 1 October 2003

1872 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to the Structural Adjustment Package for the Wide Bay Burnett Region of Queensland:

- (1) When did the Minister announce the package.
- (2) What funding was committed to the package.
- (3) What grant monies have been paid under the package.
- (4) When were program guidelines and applications forms made publicly available.
- (5) When did the application period commence.
- (6) When did the application period close.

1883 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) When did the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) or its predecessor, the National Registration Authority, receive an application for the use of glufosinate ammonium as a broad acre herbicide in Australia.
- (2) Who was the applicant.
- (3) When was the final decision made by APVMA regarding the use of glufosinate ammonium as a broad acre herbicide in Australia and can a copy of the approval notice or permit be provided, including all details of conditions of use; if not, why not.
- (4) To date, how much has the current application for the use of glufosinate ammonium as a broad acre herbicide in Australia cost the APVMA to process.
- (5) What is the expected total cost to the APVMA of processing the application.
- (6) To date, what is the quantum of fees and charges which have been levied upon the applicant in relation to the application.
- (7) What is the expected total of fees and charges that will be levied upon the applicant in relation to the application.

1884 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) When did the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) or its predecessor, the National Registration Authority, receive an application for the use of the herbicide known as Roundup as a broad acre herbicide in Australia.
- (2) Who was the applicant.
- (3) When is a final decision expected from the APVMA for the use of Roundup as a broad acre herbicide in Australia.
- (4) To date, how much has the current application for the use of Roundup as a broad acre herbicide in Australia cost the APVMA to process.
- (5) What is the expected total cost to the APVMA of processing the application.
- (6) To date, what is the quantum of fees and charges which have been levied upon the applicant in relation to the application.
- (7) What is the expected total of fees and charges that will be levied upon the applicant in relation to the application.

Notice given 8 October 2003

2191 **Senator Murray:** To ask the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads—

- (1) Is the Minister, in his capacity as Manager of Government Business in the Senate, aware of the following statement made by the Minister for Small Business and Tourism (Mr Hockey) in a *Meet the Press* interview aired on 14 September 2003: 'What I do know is the Labor Party and the Democrats are holding up a vast amount of legislation that the Government has put in place in the Senate'.
- (2) Does the Minister accept the *Australian Concise Oxford Dictionary's* definition of 'vast' as 'immense, huge, very great'.

- (3) Can the Minister: (a) provide a list for the Senate of any bill that could conceivably be regarded as being held up, as described by Mr Hockey; and (b) give his reasons for making that judgment.

Notice given 9 October 2003

2208 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—With reference to the third round of the Australia-United States free trade agreement negotiations from 21 July to 25 July 2003:

- (1) Can the composite text capturing the view of both parties on nearly all chapters be provided.
- (2) In relation to the intellectual property chapter, can the composite text following the negotiations meeting in Washington from 29 September to 1 October 2003 be provided.
- (3) (a) When are the next consultations regarding the intellectual property aspects of the free trade negotiations between Australia and the United States; and (b) what, if any, are the outcomes to date.

Notice given 14 October 2003

Senator O'Brien: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 2243-2273)—For each of the financial years 2001-02 and 2002-03 can the following details be provided in relation to paper and paper products:

- (1) How much has been spent by the department on these products.
- (2) From which countries of origin has the department sourced these products.
- (3) From which companies has the department sourced these products.
- (4) What was the percentage of the total of paper and paper products in value (in AUD) sourced by the department by country.
- (5) What was the percentage of the total of paper and paper products in value (in AUD) sourced by the department by company.
- (6) What steps has the department taken to ensure that paper and paper products sourced by the department from other countries comply with the ISO 14001 environmental management system standard.

2250 Minister representing the Attorney-General

2260 Minister for Justice and Customs

2269 Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer

Notice given 22 October 2003

2315 **Senator Bartlett:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—

- (1) Will the Minister accredit regional natural resource management (NRM) plans under the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) or National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP) if they are inconsistent with nationally-agreed NRM strategies, such as the National Water Quality Management Strategy, National Principles for the Provision of Water for Ecosystems and the National Framework for Management and Monitoring of Native Vegetation.
- (2) Are regional NRM plans under the NHT and NAP intended to be vehicles for the implementation of the nationally-agreed NRM strategies; if so, what

mechanisms are in place to ensure the nationally-agreed NRM strategies are implemented through the regional NRM plans.

- (3) In determining the allocation of funds under the NHT and NAP, does the Government give priority to the implementation of the nationally-agreed NRM strategies.
- (4) (a) Does the Government monitor the implementation of the nationally-agreed NRM strategies by the states and territories; and (b) has the Government found any instances in which a state or territory has failed to implement a nationally-agreed NRM strategy; if so, can details be provided of these instances and the action that has been taken to address this issue.
- (5) How does the Government intend to improve water quality in, and environmental flows to, coastal Ramsar wetlands through the regional delivery model being employed under the NHT and NAP.
- (6) (a) How does the Government intend to address the matters protected under Part 3, Division 1 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (i.e. the so-called 'matters of national environmental significance') in accrediting regional NRM plans; and (b) will funding of priority projects for the protection and conservation of matters of national environmental significance take precedence over the priorities identified in regional NRM plans.
- (7) What criteria does the Government use to ensure regional NRM plans address the need to protect and conserve matters of national environmental significance.
- (8) Does the presence of matters of national environmental significance in a region influence the funds that are made available to the relevant regional body under the NHT and NAP.
- (9) How much money has been spent under the second phase of the NHT on priority projects outside the accredited NRM planning and investment framework.
- (10) Do all priority projects that have received funding under the second phase of the NHT include relevant resource condition targets; if not, why not.
- (11) For each of the first and second phases of the NHT and the NAP, what percentage of funds spent (to date) were spent on: (a) planning; (b) implementation; (c) monitoring; and (d) reporting.
- (12) In respect of the NAP and the second phase of the NHT, what percentage of funds does the Government expect to spend on: (a) planning; (b) implementation; (c) monitoring; and (d) reporting.
- (13) Does the Government monitor compliance by the states and territories with the terms and conditions in the bilateral agreements that have been entered into as part of the NHT and NAP; if so, how does it carry out this monitoring.
- (14) Has the Government identified any instances of breaches of the conditions of the NHT and NAP bilateral agreements; if so, can details of these breaches and the action taken to address the breaches be provided.

2317 **Senator Bartlett:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—

- (1) With reference to the second phase of the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT): How much money has been spent:

- (a) on the National Vegetation Initiative;
 - (b) on the Murray-Darling 2001 Program;
 - (c) on the Coasts and Clean Seas Initiative;
 - (d) on the National Land and Water Resources Audit;
 - (e) on the National Reserve System;
 - (f) on 'environment protection' (as defined under section 15 of the *Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997* (NHTA Act));
 - (g) on supporting 'sustainable agriculture' (as defined under section 16 of the NHTA Act).
 - (h) on 'natural resource management' (as defined under section 17 of the NHTA Act);
 - (i) on purposes that are incidental or ancillary to any of the purposes outlined in subsections 8(a) to (h) of the NHTA Act;
 - (j) for the purpose of making grants of financial assistance for any of the purposes outlined in subsections 8(a) to (h) of the NHTA Act;
 - (k) for accounting transfer purposes (as defined in section 18 of the NHTA Act).
- (2) How much money in the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Reserve that represents proceeds of the sale of shares in Telstra has been debited for the purposes of: (a) the National Vegetation Initiative; (b) the Murray-Darling 2001 Program; (c) the National Land and Water Resources Audit; (d) the National Reserve System; (e) the Coasts and Clean Seas Initiative; (f) environmental protection (as defined by section 15 of the NHTA Act); (g) supporting sustainable agriculture (as defined by section 16 of the NHTA Act); (h) natural resources management (as defined by section 17 of the NHTA Act); (i) a purpose incidental or ancillary to any of the purposes outlined in subsections 8(a) to (h) of the NHTA Act; and (j) the making of grants of financial assistance for any of the purposes outlined in subsections 8(a) to (h) of the NHTA Act.
- (3) How do the four programs that are being funded through the second phase of the NHT, (i.e. Landcare, Bushcare, Coastcare and Rivercare) relate to the purposes of the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Reserve that are set out in section 8 of the NHTA Act.
- (4) How does the Government reconcile the purposes of the Reserve, as defined in section 8 of the NHTA Act, with the three overarching objectives of the NHT that are described in government policy papers (i.e. sustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity conservation and community capacity building and institutional change).
- (5) Do the bilateral agreements that the Commonwealth has signed to date include frameworks for the achievement of outcomes that relate to 'environmental protection', 'natural resource management' and 'sustainable agriculture' (as defined in sections 15, 16 and 17 of the NHTA Act); if so, can the Minister explain how these outcomes will be achieved and how these outcomes relate to the three policy objectives of the NHT as referred to in question 4.
- (6) With reference to Section 21 of the NHTA Act, which requires the Minister to have regard to the principles of ecologically sustainable development in making a decision to approve a proposal to spend money in the Reserve: can the Minister describe how these principles were considered in making the decisions to approve the funding for the following:

- (a) the Queensland National Reserve System Program projects known as 'The Seven Confidential Land Acquisition Projects in Queensland' in 2001-02;
 - (b) the South-East Queensland Western Catchment project that was announced on 1 October 2003;
 - (c) the Burdekin Dry Tropics project that was announced on 1 October 2003;
 - (d) the \$2.14 million and \$967 000 of Queensland drought recovery measures that were announced on 7 May 2003 and on 28 March 2003 respectively;
 - (e) the South Australia Bushcare project known as 'Improving the Quality of Biodiversity of Protected Areas on Private Land' in 2001-02;
 - (f) the South Australia Bushcare project known as 'Natural Heritage Trust Coordination' in 2001-02;
 - (g) the \$134 149 and \$29 928 of South Australia drought recovery measures that were announced on 7 May 2003 and on 28 March 2003 respectively;
 - (h) the New South Wales project known as 'Integrated Delivery of Environmental Education in the Sydney Basin' that was announced on 16 July 2003; and
 - (i) the \$3.17 million and \$1.56 million of New South Wales drought recovery measures that were announced on 7 May 2003 and on 28 March 2003 respectively.
- (7) How much money has the Commonwealth derived from interests in property acquired using funds from the Reserve.
- (8) How much money has the Commonwealth transferred to the Reserve from the Consolidated Revenue Fund on account of moneys derived from interests in property acquired using funds from the Reserve.
- (9) Who are the current members of the NHT Advisory Committee and what qualifications or experience in natural resource management do they possess.
- (10) Has the NHT Advisory Committee provided advice to the NHT Board on:
- (a) the program structure of the NHT (i.e. national, regional and envirofund), and relative expenditures of money under this structure;
 - (b) the relative expenditures of monies between the Coastcare, Landcare, Bushcare and Rivercare programs;
 - (c) the relative expenditures between regions and between national component programs;
 - (d) accounting for the commitment given by the Howard Government in 2001 to spend \$350 million directly on water quality measures under the second phase of the NHT;
 - (e) the requirements for accreditation of regional plans; and
 - (f) priorities for expenditure to achieve environmental protection, natural resource management and sustainable agriculture outcomes.
- (11) If the NHT Advisory Committee has provided advice on any of the matters outlined in question 10, can a copy of the advice be provided by no later than 2 November 2003.

- (12) Can a copy of the Investment Strategy for the Reserve referred to in section 41 of the NHTA Act be provided by no later than 2 November 2003.
- (13) (a) Which components of the NHT and programs under the national component currently have funding agreements for multiple years, including the 2003-04 and 2004-05 financial years; and (b) has the Natural Heritage Ministerial Board approved estimates for these components and programs, in accordance with section 41 of the NHTA Act; if so, can a copy of these estimates be provided by no later than 2 November 2003.
- (14) With reference to section 42 of the NHTA Act, what was the indexation for each of the following financial years: (a) 2002-03; and (b) 2003-04 .
- (15) Can a copy be provided of the guidelines for the preparation of the financial statements for the Reserve that have been issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration.
- (16) Can a copy be provided of any guidelines that have been prepared for accounting for in-kind contributions to projects funded under the NHT or the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality.

Notice given 27 October 2003

2331 **Senator Marshall:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—

- (1) What facilities exist to house ‘illegal migrants’ in Australia.
- (2) How many and which of these are operated: (a) privately; and (b) by the Government.
- (3) How many ‘illegal migrants’ are held in each centre.
- (4) How many staff are employed in each centre.
- (5) What is the estimated cost, per annum, of operating each centre.
- (6) Of those persons held over the past 12 months in each of the ‘illegal migrant’ detention facilities, how many were: (a) family units; (b) men; (c) women; and (d) children.
- (7) Of those persons currently held in each of the ‘illegal migrant’ detention facilities, how many are: (a) family units; (b) men; (c) women; and (d) children.

Notice given 3 November 2003

Senator Ludwig: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 2337-2338)—With reference to the implementation of recommendations contained in the report ‘The Use of Bankruptcy and Family Law Schemes to Avoid Payment of Tax’:

- (1) Given that Recommendation 1 states that ‘The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is currently developing these guidelines together with the Attorney-General’s (A-G’s) department and expects to have new guidelines in place by 30 June 2003’:
 - (a) were these guidelines put in place on 30 June 2003; if not, what was the cause of the delay and when will this happen; if so, can a copy be provided;
 - (b) what training was provided to ATO ‘decision makers’ in relation to the implementation of these guidelines; and
 - (c) what consultations were held with the Privacy Commissioner to ensure that there were no breaches of the *Privacy Act 1988*.

- (2) Given that Recommendation 2 states that ‘The Treasury, in consultation with the A-G’s department are currently weighing up the various considerations involved in providing publicly available information to prescribed industry and professional associations, including the rights of individuals concerning access to their taxation information as recommended in the Taskforce Report. While legislative change may provide another avenue for such information to be provided, industry and professional associations can also consider the extent to which they may require the provision of such information directly from their members as a condition of membership’:
- (a) what progress has been made to amend subsection 16(4) of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936* and section 3(c) of the *Taxation Administration Act 1953*, as recommended by the Taskforce;
 - (b) is legislation still being considered; if so, when can a draft be made available;
 - (c) has the Office of the Privacy Commissioner or any other agency been consulted in relation to any proposed legislative changes; if so, can the following details be provided: (i) who was consulted, (ii) what was the cost, and (iii) who participated in the consultation process; if not, does the Privacy Commissioner expect consultations to occur;
 - (d) have discussions or consultations commenced or been conducted with ‘industry and professional associations’; if so, can details be provided of: (i) which ‘industry and professional associations’ attended discussions, and (ii) what to date has been the result of these discussions; and
 - (e) Has any agency been designated as the lead agency for these discussions; if so: (i) which agency, (ii) has this agency initiated discussions or consultations, (iii) is it required to report on progress made; if so, when can an update of the progress made be provided; if not, why not.
- (3) Given that Recommendation 7 states that: ‘It is recommended that section 106B of the *Family Law Act 1975* be widened to allow third parties to apply to the court for an order or injunction preventing the disposition of property pending an application to set aside or overturn a section 79 order’:
- (a) in respect of the decision in *Deputy Commissioner of Taxation and Kliman (2002)*: has the A-G’s department reached a decision on the need for the above mentioned amendment; if not, when does the A-G’s department expect this; and
 - (b) can the legal advice concerning this decision be made available.
- (4) Given that Recommendation 10 states that: ‘It is recommended that there be a separation declaration for financial agreements generally not only for superannuation agreements, to ensure that financial agreements are not entered into by couples for the purpose of avoiding creditors. An additional requirement might be included in section 90G of the *Family Law Act 1975*, to ensure that legal advice received in relation to an agreement includes notice that a declaration of separation is required’:
- (a) has the A-G’s department finalised advice it intends to forward to the Attorney-General in relation to implementing this recommendation; if not, why not, and (i) when will this advice been finalised, and (ii) who within the department has responsibility for the advice.

- (5) Given that Recommendation 12 states that: 'It is recommended that penalties for key offences in the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* be reviewed in accordance with advice to be provided by the Criminal Justice Division of the A-G's department with a view to enhancing their deterrent effect upon high income professionals avoiding payment of their income liabilities':
- (a) what progress has been made in examining the efficacy of the existing penalties in deterring high income professionals, from avoiding payment of their income tax liabilities;
 - (b) what enhanced penalties are being considered;
 - (c) what advice has the Criminal Justice Division of the A-G's department given in relation to increased penalties; and
 - (d) what 'other alternative approaches' are being considered to deter high income professionals from avoiding payment of their income tax liabilities.

2337 Minister representing the Treasurer

2338 Minister representing the Attorney-General

Senator Ludwig: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 2340-2357)—

- (1) Does the department use Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in an effort to avoid litigation; if not, why not; if so, are there specific guidelines for the Department to follow when using ADR.
- (2) If the department is not using ADR provisions, what process is used in cases that require resolution.
- (3) Has the department been advised of any development of guidelines for the use of ADR.
- (4) Does any of the legislation for which the department has responsibility contain ADR procedures; if so, (a) can each relevant provision be identified (eg. by statute name and section number); and (b) are guidelines provided for the use of ADR provisions in these instances; if so, can a copy of the guidelines be provided.

2349 Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts

2359 **Senator Marshall:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—

- (1) What circumstances could lead to a detainee in an Immigration Detention Centre (IDC) being segregated from other detainees.
- (2) When detainees in IDCs are segregated from other detainees what departmental or company processes are followed.
- (3) Who makes the decision to segregate a detainee.
- (4) At the time of their segregation are detainees advised how long they will remain segregated and why they are to be segregated.
- (5) Whilst segregated from other detainees: (a) what access to services and facilities do detainees have; and (b) what services or facilities are denied.
- (6) In relation to detainees in each IDC held in solitary confinement during the past year, how many were held for longer than 5 days; and, in each case, for how much longer was each detainee held.

- (7) When a detainee is held in solitary confinement is a report on the circumstances leading to the segregation of the detainee lodged with the department; if not, why not.
- (8) Is solitary confinement of detainees ever used as a form of punishment; if not, why have detainees who have been held in solitary confinement been denied reading and music materials.
- (9) Do detainees undertake psychological and/or psychiatric assessments prior to, during and/or after they spend time in solitary confinement; if not, why not; if so, are detainees provided with access to their own psychological or psychiatric assessments; if not, why not.

Notice given 5 November 2003

2360 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—

- (1) As at 1 October 2003: (a) how many children and young people aged less than 18 years were being held in each of the mainland and offshore detention centres; (b) how long has each of these children been in detention; and (c) how many of these children, by detention centre, are currently proposed or being considered for moving to alternative places of detention in accordance with Migration Series Instruction No. 371: (i) during November 2003, (ii) during November and December 2003, and (iii) at any other time.
- (2) In each case, why are those children currently being held in mainland detention centres not already placed in alternative detention arrangements in accordance with the Migration Series Instruction No. 371.
- (3) Does the Minister acknowledge the long-term mental and emotional damage these children are suffering as a result of being held in detention centres.
- (4) Given that the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, the Royal Australian College of Physicians, the Committee of Presidents of Combined Medical Colleges, the Australian Medical Association and the Australian Psychological Society all oppose the policy of indefinite mandatory detention, will the Government change its policy; if not, why not.
- (5) Does the Government agree with the National Rural Health Alliance argument, as reported in the Alliance's newsletter of September 2003, that in relation to Australasian Correctional Management, which run immigration detention centres, 'A culture of profit, lack of transparent accountability, conflict of interest (the source of the distress provides the service that purports to treat it) and resulting compromises of professional ethics, affect all health treatment decisions'; if not, why not.
- (6) Does the Government agree that the creation of temporary protection visas appears to compound pre-existing psychological trauma; if not, what evidence does the Government have to demonstrate otherwise.

Notice given 6 November 2003

2363 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—With reference to a letter dated 27 October 2003 referred to in the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Communiqué, written by the Prime Minister to the members of the COAG in the lead-up to the November 2000 COAG meeting:

- (1) Can the names and positions be provided of the 'senior COAG officials' who drafted the amendments to the National Competition Policy Arrangements passed at the November 2000 COAG meeting.
- (2) Can names and positions be provided of the 'senior COAG officials' who were given the task of consulting with the National Competition Council about its forward work program, activities, assessments, communications, guidance and interpretation and helping to formulate 'appropriate assessment benchmarks'.
- (3) (a) How was this team (or these teams, if there is more than one team) of officials chosen and by whom; and (b) to whom do these officials report.

Notice given 10 November 2003

2375 **Senator Lundy:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—With reference to the Digital Data Service Special Rebate:

- (1) (a) How many people have applied for the rebate; (b) how many applications have been; (i) successful, and (ii) unsuccessful.
- (2) How much money has been allocated to this initiative, and of this money, how much has been spent.
- (3) Can a table be provided showing the grounds commonly given for rejecting applications and how many times each has been given.
- (4) On how many occasions did a rejection occur in an area which currently does not receive an Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) service but is deemed to be potentially capable of receiving this service.
- (5) On what grounds would an area be deemed to be potentially capable of receiving an ISDN service, rather than not capable.
- (6) On how many occasions has an application for the rebate been denied because an area which cannot currently receive ISDN is deemed to be potentially capable of receiving an ISDN service, rather than not capable.

Notice given 17 November 2003

2380 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Trade—

- (1) For each year since 1998-99, what was the volume and value of Australia's flour exports to Indonesia.
- (2) What Australian companies have been granted accreditation by the Indonesian Government to export flour to Indonesia.
- (3) Were Australian flour imports into Indonesia restricted during 2003 by the Indonesian Government; if so:
 - (a) what restrictions were applied;
 - (b) when were the restrictions applied;
 - (c) what was the impact on Australia's flour exports;
 - (d) when was the department made aware of the restrictions and what was the source of this information;
 - (e) was the department asked to make representations on behalf of Australian flour exporters to overturn the restrictions; if so, who made this request and when was it made;
 - (f) what representations did the department make to the Indonesian Government in relation to these restrictions;

- (g) did the department, including embassy staff in Jakarta, make direct representations to the Indonesian Trade Minister on behalf of Manildra Flour Mills; and
- (h) have restrictions been lifted in response to the department's representations; if so, when were restrictions lifted and when was the department informed.

Notice given 25 November 2003

2393 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 24 November 2003, entitled 'Company accused over nuts scandal':

- (1) When did the Minister first become aware that macadamia nuts imported from Kenya were repackaged in boxes, relabelled 'product of Australia' and then sold to food wholesalers and retailers in Australia.
- (2) Can the Minister confirm that only Coles and Bi-Lo stores have received these repackaged and relabelled nuts; if not, can the name and location of all food wholesalers and retailers in Australia which have received the nuts be provided.
- (3) How and when did the department notify food retailers and wholesalers, consumer groups and the Australian Macadamia Society about the discovery of the repackaged and relabelled nuts.
- (4) What steps is the department taking to: (a) investigate how the repackaged and relabelled nuts entered the Australian food distribution chain under false labelling; and (b) prevent the similar repackaging and relabelling of imported macadamia nuts in the future.
- (5) What steps have been taken to test the nuts to ensure they comply with quarantine standards as set out by the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service.

Notice given 27 November 2003

Senator O'Brien: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 2400-2401)—

- (1) For each of the past 5 financial years, from which countries has Australia imported macadamia nuts and in what quantity.
- (2) In relation to each country from which Australia currently imports macadamia nuts: (a) what chemicals are used in the production process; (b) what testing regimes are in place in that country for chemical residues; and (c) which agencies undertake these tests before the nuts are exported.
- (3) (a) What chemical residue testing regimes are in place in Australia for macadamia nut imports; (b) for what chemicals used in the production process is testing conducted; (c) which agency undertakes these tests; and (d) in relation to each chemical, what sampling rates apply.
- (4) Where chemical residue testing on macadamia nuts bound for Australia is conducted by the exporting countries, what action is taken by the Commonwealth to ensure the veracity of the testing.
- (5) Can details be provided of any instances in the past 5 financial years where chemical residue testing of macadamia nuts bound for Australia has been found by the Commonwealth to be inadequate.
- (6) What penalties or sanctions have been applied to the supplying nation, shipping operator, trader or agency in cases where chemical residue testing

of macadamia nuts bound for Australia has been found by the Commonwealth to be inadequate.

- (7) In relation to each country from which Australia has imported macadamia nuts, for each of the past 5 financial years: (a) on how many occasions have macadamia nuts bound for Australia been rejected on the basis that chemical residue testing has detected unacceptable levels of chemical residues; and (b) in each case: (i) which chemical was involved, (ii) what was the concentration of the chemical, and (iii) what was Food Standards Australia and New Zealand's approved level for each chemical at the time.

2400 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

2401 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

2403 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—How many individuals who accepted redundancy packages from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) during the period 1 January 2000 to 1 January 2002 and who have subsequently returned to the ABC to perform paid work for the broadcaster, on a full-time, part-time, casual, contract, fee-for-service or consultancy basis, returned to the ABC within 12 months of accepting their redundancy packages.

Notice given 28 November 2003

2415 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) Can the Minister confirm that Telstra's basic access revenue increased by \$211 million to \$3.091 billion during the 2002-03 financial year following large line rental increases, despite the number of Telstra basic access lines decreasing from 10.4 million to 10.1 million; and (b) given that call costs do not appear to have decreased, does this represent a \$200 million increase in Telstra's profits.
- (2) Can the Minister confirm that local call revenue decreased by \$76 million to \$1.567 billion, or approximately 5 per cent, in the 2002-03 financial year and the number of billable local calls also decreased by around 5 per cent from 10.269 billion to 9.794 billion; and (b) does the similar revenue and volume decrease in local calls indicate that Telstra is not passing on reduced local call costs in 2002-03, as required by the price controls which require local call prices to decrease together with other call costs.
- (3) Given that Telstra's annual report apparently indicates that Telstra is making a windfall out of line rental increases, and that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has already raised doubts about whether Telstra is complying with price controls, will the Minister investigate whether Telstra is complying with their already generous price control arrangements.

2419 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) Can the Minister confirm newspaper reports of July 2003 that Telstra staff had their individual call centre performance records displayed on white boards for all staff to see.
- (2) Are Telstra call centre staff electronically monitored for toilet breaks and personal calls, as suggested in these newspaper reports.
- (3) Are Telstra call centre staff working to targets that require them to end customer calls as quickly as possible; if so, what are those targets; if not,

can an explanation be provided of why Telstra employees often disconnect calls without giving customers the opportunity to thank them for providing a number or change a direction when a customer uses the premium 12456 call connect service.

- (4) (a) What proportion of Telstra customer service call centre staff are in-house Telstra employees; and (b) what proportion of this work is outsourced to private companies.
- (5) Is any Telstra telephone customer service work outsourced overseas; if so, can details be provided.

2421 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) When does the Government plan to reintroduce the Communications Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) into the Senate.
- (2) Given that Ms Catherine Smith of the Attorney-General's Department stated during the inquiry by the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee into the Communications Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003, that the intention of the bill was not to disconnect individuals' phone services: will the Government consider the recommendation in the committee's minority report that the provisions of the bill that potentially enable the Government to disconnect individuals' telephone services be redrafted.

2426 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—

- (1) Is the department aware of any criticism of the Legal Aid Needs Study conducted by John Walker Consulting Services and Rush Social Research on behalf of the department; if so, can details of the criticism be provided.
- (2) Is the legal aid funding model derived from the Legal Aid Needs Study subject to review; if so: (a) which organisation or individual is conducting the review; and (b) when will it be completed.
- (3) Has any new research into a revised legal aid funding model been commissioned since the John Walker Consulting Services and Rush Social Research study; if so: (a) when was the research commissioned; (b) which organisation or individual is conducting the research; and (c) what is the cost of the research.
- (4) If research into a new legal aid funding model has not been commissioned, why not.

Notice given 1 December 2003

2431 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—

- (1) Since March 1996, on how many occasions has the Prime Minister stayed at Claridges Hotel in Mayfair, London.
- (2) On what dates did the Prime Minister stay at this self-described "five star, de luxe, luxury" hotel.
- (3) On his most recent trip to London, did the Prime Minister stay in the Brook Apartment penthouse suite, described by the hotel as '220 square metres/2,368 square feet (approximately), 2 King Beds. This stunning apartment has been restored in the Art Deco style with an elegant, gentle mauve décor, light oak floors and original fittings from the 1930s. The bedrooms are large and luxurious, each with their own dressing-rooms. The marble bathrooms are equally splendid with extra deep baths and separate

showers. A beautiful sitting-room with full height windows looks out onto a stunning private roof terrace. In addition, there is an elegant dining-room with a cocktail bar and cloakroom. A personal butler service is provided with the penthouse’.

- (4) What was the cost of the Prime Minister’s: (a) accommodation; (b) food; (c) beverages; and (c) other items (please specify) at Claridges for this recent trip.
- (5) How many other rooms and suites were used by the Prime Minister’s party for this trip, and for what purposes.
- (6) For the Prime Minister’s most recent trip, what were the costs for the Prime Minister’s party, excluding the Prime Minister, of: (a) accommodation; (b) food; (c) beverages; and (d) other items (please specify).
- (7) Apart from the services provided and paid for outlined under (3) and (4) above, did the hotel provide any other services to the Prime Minister and his party.
- (8) Has the bill for the hotel been presented and paid; if not, why not; if so, who paid the bill.
- (9) On each of the occasions the Prime Minister has used this hotel since 1996, has he always stayed at the Brook Apartment penthouse suite; if not, on which occasion has he used other suites in the hotel, and which suites were used.
- (10) On each occasion that the Prime Minister stayed at the hotel, what was the cost of the Prime Minister’s: (a) accommodation; (b) food; (c) beverages; and (c) other items (please specify).
- (11) On each occasion that the Prime Minister stayed at the hotel since March 1996, how much was paid by the department to the hotel for associated costs excluding the amounts at (7) above.

Notice given 2 December 2003

- 2439 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the answer to question on notice no. 2190 (Senate *Hansard* 24 November 2003, p. 17678): Since 1996, who has received government assistance for projects relating to platypuses and, in each case, (i) how much money was or will be allocated, and (ii) what is the nature of the project.

Notice given 3 December 2003

- 2442 **Senator Santoro:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—(a) During 2003, what documentaries has the Australian Broadcasting Corporation examined with a view to buying, but not bought; and (b) what were the reasons for not purchasing these documentaries.

Notice given 8 December 2003

- 2448 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—(a) On what grounds, or against which criteria, was the Tasmanian Environment Centre’s (TEC) funding cut by 71 per cent in 2003; (b) in what way is the centre failing compared to previous years; and (c) was funding cut because the TEC promotes public education on the environment and so threatens government security.

- 2450 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—(a) What is the Halliburton stake in the consortium which built and operates the Alice Springs to Darwin railway line; (b) was Halliburton the project leader; and (c) what discussions has the Prime Minister or the department had with Halliburton about the projects, including where and when these were held.
- 2453 **Senator Forshaw:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Science—
- (1) Was a meeting of the board of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) held at Parliament House in October or November 2002; if so: (a) when was it held; and (b) can a list be provide of all those who attended and the capacity in which they attended, including ANSTO Board members, ANSTO staff, ministers and their staff and other government representatives.
 - (2) Was the issue of geological faulting, which has been discovered at the new reactor construction site, discussed at any time during the meeting.
 - (3) Was the impact of the faulting on the construction schedule for the reactor discussed; if so, what are the possible effects, remedies and potential cost of remediation.
 - (4) (a) How was substantive rather than ancillary construction work affected during the months in which expert geological surveys and reports were prepared and considered; and (b) was work on the reactor construction site effectively shut down; if so, for how long.
 - (5) (a) Is ANSTO required to continue to make progress payments to INVAP during any construction hiatus; (b) are similar payments required to be made to any other organisations involved in reactor construction; and (c) was any contingency funding included in the project's budget for unseen delays.
 - (6) How much were the scheduled payments made monthly by ANSTO to INVAP SE during the 2002 calendar year.
 - (7) Has ANSTO requested any additional funding for the reactor project; if so: (a) when was it requested and by whom; (b) how much was requested; (c) over what period and for what purpose; and (d) what was the government's response.
 - (8) Has additional funding been provided or promised to ANSTO to complete the reactor; if so, by what mechanism and in what timeframe will such funds be provided.
 - (9) Was any discussion of the foregoing matters at the board meeting referred to in (1) minuted; if so, can a copy of the minutes be provided.
 - (10) How are contributions made to discussions by invitees and/or observers at ANSTO meetings minuted.
 - (11) (a) Who were the invitees and/or observers that attended the ANSTO board meeting referred to in (1); and (b) were their contributions minuted; if not why not.
 - (12) (a) What is the expected total cost of the new reactor; and (b) what would the expected cost of the reactor have been if the delay caused by the geological faulting had not occurred.
 - (13) Has ANSTO reduced operational funding of its other areas (non new reactor project) during the current and previous financial years; if the Government has not reduced ANSTO's budget for its usual activities: (a) is the Government satisfied no recurring funding provided by the taxpayer is

being diverted to subsidise new reactor construction costs; and (b) what mechanisms are in place to ensure that this does not occur.

Notice given 9 December 2003

2458 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister for Justice and Customs—

- (1) How many: (a) full-time staff; (b) part-time staff; and (c) casual staff were employed at Perth International Airport for each month during the past 2 years.
- (2) (a) What is the current average length of a shift; and (b) what is the number of shifts for all employees.
- (3) (a) How long are sniffer dogs on duty each day; and (b) what is the average length of time for which dogs are not available each day.
- (4) What percentage of outgoing and incoming luggage was x-rayed each week during the past 12 months.
- (5) For each day of the week, how many hours are security patrols currently conducted by Australian Customs Service at the Port of Fremantle.
- (6) (a) What is the current daily throughput of the new x-ray facility at the Port of Fremantle; and (b) what is the average number of containers per day transiting the port.
- (7) In the past 3 months: (a) how many new staff have been recruited in Western Australia; (b) how many are in training; and (c) how many positions are available for those in training.

2463 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister for Defence—When will answers to questions on notice 1644, 1697 and 1935 be provided.

Notice given 10 December 2003

2465 **Senator Evans:** To ask the Minister for Defence—

- (1) Can the following information about each committee within Defence chaired by a one star rank equivalent or higher be provided: (a) name of the committee; (b) its function and role; and (c) when it met during 2002 and 2003.
- (2) (a) For the years 2001, 2002 and 2003, when did the Defence Industry Advisory Council meet; (b) what is its function and role; and (c) what is its current membership.

2467 **Senator Evans:** To ask the Minister for Defence—

- (1) When did the Nunn review on remuneration in Defence provide its findings to the Government.
- (2) When did the Australian Defence Organisation provide to the Government a response to the Nunn review.
- (3) What is the current status of the Nunn review and its recommendations.
- (4) Have the recommendations been formally agreed to by the Government.
- (5) Is the Government yet to decide on its response to the Nunn review; if so, when is a decision expected.
- (6) Has the Government decided to set aside, or is it considering setting aside, the Nunn review and its recommendations.
- (7) (a) What is the relationship between the Nunn review and the remuneration reform program; (b) is the reform program examining: (i) issues covered,

- (ii) recommendations of, and (iii) the implementation of the recommendations of the Nunn review.
- (8) Is it expected that the program will develop a new pay structure for the Australian Defence Force by June 2004.

Notice given 15 December 2003

2472 **Senator Marshall:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—With reference to an article which appeared on page 9 of the *Herald Sun* of 5 December 2003:

- (1) What were the terms of reference for the departmental investigation into the Defend and Extend Medicare Group (DEMG).
- (2) Who was responsible for initiating the investigation into the DEMG.
- (3) When was the investigation launched.
- (4) Has the department completed its investigation; if so, when; if not, when will it do so.
- (5) Why was the investigation launched.
- (6) Who comprised the investigating group.
- (7) Who decided the composition of the investigating group.
- (8) What activities did this group undertake in order to investigate DEMG.
- (9) Can all of the findings of the investigation be provided; if not, why not.
- (10) Can details of the illegal activities of the DEMG be provided; if not, why not.
- (11) Can details of the illegal activities of individual members of the DEMG be provided; if not, why not.
- (12) What charges, if any, have been laid against members of the DEMG.
- (13) (a) What action, if any, is to be taken against members of the DEMG; and (b) if action is to be taken, against whom.
- (14) What was the cost of investigating the DEMG.
- (15) Can details of other departmental resources used in the investigation be provided; if not, why not.
- (16) (a) Who provided the *Herald Sun* with an 'internal report prepared by the ministerial officers responsible for investigating DEMG members'; (b) why was this report provided to the *Herald Sun*; (c) who authorised the release of the report to the *Herald Sun*; (d) is this report available publicly; if not, why not; and (e) can the report be provided; if not, why not.
- (17) Which intelligence agency is referred to in the *Herald Sun* report.
- (18) Who requested that the agency undertake the investigation into the members and operations of the DEMG.
- (19) Under the provisions of what Act did the intelligence agency undertake its investigation into DEMG.
- (20) Why did an intelligence agency undertake an investigation into DEMG instead of state police.
- (21) (a) Which intelligence officers provided the *Herald Sun* with a briefing on the activities of DEMG; (b) who authorised this briefing; (c) why was this briefing authorised; and (d) can details of the briefing be provided; if not, why not.

Notice given 16 December 2003

2446 **Senator Carr:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources—

- (1) Has the Minister, his office or his department been approached during the past 3 months by shale oil company, Southern Pacific Petroleum (SPP) for financial support; if so: (a) what was the nature and value of the support requested; (b) what was the Government's response; and (c) what reasons were provided for the Government's decision.
- (2) Has the Minister, his office or his department been approached by Mr Jeff Sandefer, his representatives or the receivers recently appointed by him to SPP; if so, what was the nature of the approach.

Notice given 18 December 2003

2474 **Senator Evans:** To ask the Minister for Defence—With reference to the AGM-142 weapon:

- (1) What is the latest estimate on the total cost of modifying the F-111 fleet to enable these aircraft to deploy the AGM-142.
- (2) To date, how much has been spent on the project to equip the F-111 fleet with AGM-142s.
- (3) What is the latest estimate of when those modifications will be completed.
- (4) When is it expected that the AGM-142 will enter service.
- (5) What is the latest estimate of the total cost of the project to equip the F-111 fleet with AGM-142.
- (6) (a) Have any AGM-142s been delivered to Australia; if so, how many; and (b) do any AGM-142s remain overseas; if so, how many.

Notice given 22 December 2003

2480 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to land clearing in Reserve 41812 within the Kununurra RAMSAR site boundary:

- (1) Has the Minister been made aware of this clearing.
- (2) Was a permit to clear sought by the proponents from Environment Australia; if not, why not.
- (3) Does this land clearing breach the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conversation Act 1999*; if not, why not.
- (4) Does this land clearing breach the requirements of Australia's commitment to a RAMSAR agreement; if not, why not; if so: (a) will the proponent be prosecuted; if not, why not; and (b) will the proponent be required to rehabilitate the area; if not, why not.

2483 **Senator Cherry:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—What is the cost of the one day trip by the Prime Minister to the Solomon Islands on 22 December 2003, including any related security costs.

Notice given 9 January 2004

2494 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for Defence—With reference to the suicide of ABRO Mark Andrew Starling in March 2002:

- (1) Will the Navy implement the recommendations of Cmdr Gary Barrow RAN, who conducted an inquiry into 'Whether there was any failure to follow the applicable procedures or whether there were any factors that may have led to the delay in finding ABRO Starling'.
- (2) Will the Navy institute an inquiry into the circumstances leading to ABRO Starling taking his own life in particular; (a) whether ABRO Starling was subjected to undue pressures within his naval career; (b) whether his naval superiors recognised, or should have recognised, that he was in such stress that he might take his own life; (c) whether adequate psychological support was available; (d) whether he was encouraged to use the available psychological support; (e) what changes should be instituted to protect other seamen who might experience similar severe psychological problems.

Notice given 13 January 2004

2499 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs—

- (1) (a) What programs have been offered in the past 2 years and are currently on offer by the Vietnam Veterans' Counselling Service (VVCS) in each state; (b) what is or was the budget for each program; and (c) how many registrations were received for each program.
- (2) How many registrations failed to show or were withdrawn from each program for which a registration was received.
- (3) For veterans in both Western Australia and Queensland: (a) what rehabilitative programs, by type and number, have been offered by Hollywood and Greenslopes hospitals respectively in the past 2 years; (b) how many registrations were received for each; (c) how many sessions or courses were cancelled; and (d) what was the total value in each year of the courses conducted.
- (4) What are the terms in the agreement with Ramsay Health Care Limited for the provision of rehabilitation courses to veterans.
- (5) (a) How many rehabilitation and/or counselling programs have been offered by the Heidelberg Centre for veterans in each of the past 2 years; (b) how many veterans participated in each program; and (c) what was the turnover rate in each program.
- (6) What was the value of the Heidelberg Centre courses run in each of the past 2 years.
- (7) (a) How many rehabilitation and/or counselling courses were provided to the department and/or VVCS by other private providers in each of the past 2 years; (b) what was the cost of each course; and (c) what was the number of participants.
- (8) What evaluation is conducted of all courses referred to above.

Notice given 19 January 2004

Senator Nettle: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 2509-2510)—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of a report in the *Herald-Sun*, of 5 December 2003, that staff members of the former Minister for Health and Ageing, Senator Patterson, instigated an investigation into the Defend and Extend Medicare Group.

- (2) Can the Minister confirm that Senator Patterson or members of her staff initiated an investigation into the group and its members; if not, who did initiate the investigation into the group and its members.
- (3) Which agency or agencies undertook the investigation.
- (4) Who authorised the investigation and on what grounds.
- (5) What is the justification for conducting intelligence investigations into the group.
- (6) Did the investigation include intelligence agents attending rallies organised by the group; if so, what rallies did the agents attend.
- (7) To whom did the agency of agencies report and when.
- (8) Who has been provided with a copy of the report.
- (9) What were the findings of the report.
- (10) What recommendations, if any, did the report make.
- (11) What action has the Government taken in response to the report.
- (12) If the Government has not taken any action in response to the report; does it intend to; if so, what will be that action and when.
- (13) Have any members of the group who were investigated been advised that they were the subject of an intelligence agency's investigation.
- (14) Will the Minister make the report available to the Parliament; if not, why not.
- (15) Is it Government practice to collect intelligence on members of the public who oppose government policy; if so, when did this practice take effect and how many other organisations and their members have been subjected to intelligence investigations.

2509 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing

2510 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing

2511 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) How much did the Federal Government spend on the launch by the Prime Minister on 18 November 2003 of the MedicarePlus package.
- (2) What was the cost of the Government's full-page advertisements concerning the MedicarePlus package which were placed in major daily newspapers on 19 November 2003.
- (3) What was the cost of the printed material produced for the launch.
- (4) What other advertising plans does the Government have for the MedicarePlus package.
- (5) What is the budget for communications activities for MedicarePlus.
- (6) How much money did the Government spend on communications activities for the Fairer Medicare package.

Notice given 2 February 2004

Senator Allison: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 2521-2522)—

- (1) Given that the numbers of rural and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders students enrolled in most university undergraduate courses in medicine, pharmacy and nursing declined between 2000 and 2001, what strategy is being adopted to improve participation rates of these groups in these courses.

- (2) Given this decline in Indigenous enrolments, on what basis does the Government claim that higher education enrolments are ‘trending steadily upwards’, as stated on the Liberal Party of Australia’s website in issue no. 8 of *Behind the Scenes*, dated 15 December 2000.

2521 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing

2522 Minister representing the Minister for Education, Science and Training

Notice given 3 February 2004

2523 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—With reference to a study reported in the February 2004 edition of the Journal of Intellectual Disability Research, *General practitioners’ educational needs in intellectual disability health*, which found that despite the central role general practitioners (GPs) now play in the provision of primary health care to people with intellectual disability, GPs reported inadequate training in the areas of behavioural or psychiatric conditions, human relations and sexuality issues, complex medical problems and preventative and primary health care; and that 94 per cent of GPs were interested in further education in at least one of the nine health care areas, the most frequently nominated areas being behavioural or psychiatric conditions, syndrome-specific medical problems, human relations and sexuality issues and collaboration with government services: Will the Government consider including GP training for the health needs of the intellectually disabled and developmentally delayed under the Federal Enhanced Primary Care Program; if not, how will the Government address the substandard health of such people and the need for more GP training in this area.

2524 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) How many of the 345 ‘oil discharges’ off the coast of Australia in 2002 reported by the Australian Marine Safety Authority were investigated.
- (2) Has the department found that some ships pump oil from sump tanks out at sea rather than disposing of the oil properly in port.
- (3) How many ships leave ports annually without being inspected.
- (4) (a) How much is the annual revenue from the marine oil pollution levy on large ships; and (b) how is this spent.
- (5) Will the Minister initiate a review of current ship inspection and tracking protocols to better account for oil waste management and facilitate spill investigation.

2525 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—With reference to the deportation of asylum seekers:

- (1) What, if any, methods and resources are used to assess whether it is safe for asylum seekers to be returned to their country of origin or a third country.
- (2) What, if any, methods and resources are used to monitor the safety and welfare of asylum seekers who have been returned to their country of origin or a third country.
- (3) Will the Minister guarantee that the department will not return any asylum seekers into situations where they face danger of persecution, torture, unjust incarceration or death.
- (4) Will the Minister guarantee that all travel and identification documents issued or arranged by the department will be recognised internationally as genuine and valid.

- (5) Will the Minister suspend and review deportation to countries about which evidence emerges that asylum seekers have been returned to dangerous situations.

Notice given 4 February 2004

2529 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) What information has the Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee collected in the past 2 years, in relation to which medical specialties, concerning: (a) unfilled positions; (b) elective surgery waiting time/clearance time; (c) consultation waiting time and patient access; (d) excessive hours of work; (e) price of service/level of co-payment; (f) practitioner/population ratio; (g) service substitution; (h) quality of service provision; (i) referring practitioner assessments; and (j) consumer and carer assessments.
- (2) What strategies has the Government adopted to increase the number of pharmacists (and other specialist positions that are experiencing workforce shortages) available to public hospitals.
- (3) How does the Government rate its performance in relation to its workforce strategies since it restricted supply in 1996.

Notice given 5 February 2004

2530 **Senator Greig:** To ask the Minister for Family and Community Services—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of a letter to the editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, published on 30 October 2003, in which Mr Daryl Wood of Lewisham questions Centrelink's advice to him about payments to same-sex partners.
- (2) Does Centrelink regard same-sex relationships as being de facto relationships for the purposes of determining eligibility for Newstart Allowance;
- (3) Are there any circumstances in which Centrelink gives regard to same-sex relationships when determining eligibility for payments, allowances or any other benefits provided by the agency.
- (4) Does Centrelink gather any information on same-sex relationships from its customers.
- (5) Does Centrelink take any action when information on same-sex relationships is discovered or volunteered by customers; if so, what action is taken.
- (6) Does Centrelink provide any advice to customers in same-sex relationships with regard to payments and living arrangements; if so, what advice is provided.
- (7) Does the Minister consider the advice provided by Centrelink to Mr Wood, which prevented him being eligible for Newstart Allowance on the basis of his same-sex relationship being considered a de facto relationship, to be correct.

2531 **Senator Greig:** To ask the Minister for Family and Community Services—With reference to changes to the income reporting requirements for Disability Support Pension (DSP) recipients that came into effect on 1 September 2003:

- (1) Can the Minister provide further details of the circumstances surrounding the approximately 400 DSP recipients referred to in the 2003-04 Budget

estimates supplementary hearings of the Community Affairs Legislation Committee (*Hansard*, 6 November 2003, p. 106) who have had their payments stopped, suspended or interrupted; and details concerning the 49 persons who have had their payments cancelled since the new measures came into effect.

- (2) Is the Minister aware that contrary to advice provided in the supplementary estimates hearings (*Hansard*, 6 November 2003, p. 106), that pension paydays or income reporting days may be changed, these days currently cannot be changed for people whose financial affairs are managed by the Public Trustee.
- (3) (a) How many DSP recipients have their financial affairs managed by the Public Trustee; (b) how many of the 34 000 DSP recipients referred to during the supplementary estimates hearings, who are now required to report their income fortnightly, also have their financial affairs managed by the Public Trustee; and (c) have any of those who payments have been suspended been in this category.
- (4) Will the Minister investigate alternative strategies, and advise of what steps will be taken to ensure those relying on the Public Trustee are not prevented from simplifying their income reporting requirements.

Senator Harris: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 2532-2533)—With reference to the answer to question on notice no. 1392 (*Senate Hansard*, 16 June 2003, p. 11578):

- (1) Given that the answer to part 1 of the question states that: ‘This legislation states that the Secretary of the Department of Family and Community Services has general administration of the Registration and Collection Act and the Assessment Act’, and that part 7 of the answer provides that, ‘The Australian Taxation Office has provided the Attorney-General with the following information’:
 - (a) is the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) a legal entity;
 - (b) is the ATO a valid Commonwealth entity or authority;
 - (c) who is the individual responsible for the actions of the ATO;
 - (d) what statute gives effect to the ATO exercising powers or authority of its own accord; and
 - (e) is the ATO an entity that can sue or be sued or be prosecuted.
- (2) If the answers to paragraphs (1)(a) or (b) are no:
 - (a) why was information in part 7 of the answer concerning the powers exercised by the Commissioner of Taxation provided by the ATO and not the Commissioner of Taxation;
 - (b) is the Commissioner of Taxation responsible for the information given by the ATO;
 - (c) who has portfolio responsibility for the Commissioner of Taxation;
 - (d) who had portfolio responsibility for the Commissioner of Taxation on 8 May 2002; and
 - (e) will the responsible minister now instruct the Commissioner of Taxation to take responsibility for any questions answered or information provided in relation to answers given by the ATO.
- (3) Given that prior to the amendments removing the Commissioner of Taxation from section 10(2), section 11 of the *Child Support (Registration and Collection) Act 1988* stated, that ‘The Registrar has general administration’:

- (a) does the statement to 'the Commissioner of Taxation delegated powers referred to him', in part 7 of the answer to the question refer to the Office of Commissioner of Taxation delegating powers or the person who also held the position of Commissioner of Taxation delegating powers;
 - (b) did section 11 have any effect other than nomination and in particular, did it provide that the powers of Commissioner of Taxation were conferred on the Registrar;
 - (c) did the Office of Commissioner of Taxation have general administration powers (please answer yes or no);
 - (d) were the powers of the Commissioner of Taxation available to the Child Support Registrar whilst the Registrar exercised general administration of the Child Support Acts prior to the amendment Act;
 - (e) did any person, other than a person engaged as the Registrar or a Deputy Registrar, act under an Instrument of Authorisation before 24 December 1998; if so, who was the person (or persons) and can evidence of the Instruments of Authorisation be provided; and
 - (f) given that Catherine Argall signed documents in authorising the exercise of powers under the Child Support Acts prior to 24 December 1998, did she have an Instrument of Authorisation before that date.
- (4) Given that the answer to part 6 of the question was yes:
- (a) has the Attorney-General advised or instructed the Federal Privacy Commissioner in accordance with the undertaking given; if so, what action has the Federal Privacy Commissioner taken in relation to the guidelines; and
 - (b) if the Federal Privacy Commissioner has taken no action, what action has the Attorney-General taken in relation to the Federal Privacy Commissioner' refusal or failure to amend the guidelines.

2532 Minister representing the Treasurer

2533 Minister representing the Treasurer

Notice given 11 February 2004

- 2536 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—Can details be provided of the review of the new airspace arrangements, which was announced by the Minister on 19 January 2004, and in particular: (a) who will conduct the review; (b) what will be the terms of reference for the review; (c) what is the timeframe for the completion of the review; (d) will public submissions be called for; if so, how and when; (e) will there be public hearings; and (f) will the report of the review be made public.

Notice given 12 February 2004

- 2540 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—With reference to foreign film makers who come to Australia to make wildlife films:
- (1) What are the visa requirements for these people.
 - (2) What government oversight or reporting is required.

- (3) For each of the past 3 years, what percentage of wildlife films shown on Australian Broadcasting Commission, Special Broadcasting Service and commercial television stations were made by Australians.
- (4) Is it legal for a visitor to Australia to make wildlife films in Australia without a permit or visa; if not, what permit or visa is required.

2543 **Senator Cherry:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Given that the opening paragraph of the Australian Customs Service Anti-dumping Booklet defines dumping as ‘when an exporter sells a product to Australia at a lower price than the price charged in its home market’, does the department regard the purchase of Japanese used imported vehicles at public auction and/or from legitimate car dealers in competition with the Japanese public as falling within the definition of dumping.
- (2) Does the department have any evidence that vehicles purchased by these means are sold to Australian importers at prices below those in the Japanese market.
- (3) With reference to a speech by Senator Boswell in the Senate on 20 August 2002 in which he stated that used imported vehicles from Japan are dumped on the Australian market: does the department have any evidence to support the dumping allegation.
- (4) Is there any evidence of successful complaints against and/or prosecutions of Australian importers or their Japanese suppliers in relation to dumping of used imported vehicles.
- (5) With reference to Senator Boswell’s speech in which he also said that a motor vehicle in Japan is at the end of its life after 4 years: does the department have any evidence to support this claim.
- (6) How many vehicles older than 4 years are registered for road use in Japan.
- (7) What, if any, are the incentives for Japanese motorists to upgrade or update their cars after 3 years.
- (8) Are there any substantial differences in safety standards between Australia and Japan; if so, what are they.
- (9) Is it correct that the numbers of low volume used imported vehicles have plateaued and that the trend is for only a gradual increase at the market rate over time; if not, what evidence is there for an alternative view.
- (10) With reference to the projections of the Federated Chamber of Automotive Industries, from as early as 1996, indicating that 52 000 or more used imported vehicles would enter the country in 2001, which have never eventuated: did the department rely on this data to justify recent changes to the Low Volume Scheme; if not, what data supported the view that imports would significantly increase and threaten local original equipment manufacturers.
- (11) What is the average age of used imported vehicles and what evidence is used to obtain this age.
- (12) How does this average age affect or threaten sales of new vehicles.
- (13) For each of the years 1999 to 2003, broken down as original manufactured, assembled or fully imported, how many new cars were sold in Australia.

- (14) How many jobs have been lost in the Australian automotive manufacturing industry since 1994 as a direct result of the importation and sale of used imported vehicles.
- (15) With reference to Senator Boswell's speech, in which he further stated that small franchisees had been affected or would be affected by the importation of used motor vehicles: have any franchises closed down as a direct result of the sale of used imported motor vehicles.
- (16) How many automotive franchises had compliance for low volume vehicles and were selling low volume imported Japanese or American vehicles.
- (17) For each of the years: 1999 to 2003, what proportion of sales of used vehicles are made up by low volume imports.
- (18) How does the Specialist and Enthusiast Vehicle Scheme (SEVS) regime operate in relation to the national competition policy.
- (19) (a) What hardships do these new regulations cause for legitimate small businesses which have large mortgages and cannot continue under the new regime; and (b) is there any assistance for those affected; if so, what; if not, why not.
- (20) (a) How many small businesses are affected; and (b) how many business closures: (i) are expected, or (ii) have already occurred.
- (21) How many vehicles are manufactured in Australia annually.
- (22) Is there any information concerning the number of jobs that will be affected by the changes to the used low volume vehicle import regulations; if so, can this information be provided for each state.
- (23) Was it intended that the Registered Automotive Workshop Scheme (RAWS) would apply only to used Japanese vehicles and that American and European vehicles would not be affected.
- (24) Has the department conducted any research on the impact of changes relating to the importation of second-hand motor vehicles into New Zealand; if so, what were the findings and are these findings relevant to Australia.
- (25) (a) What is the current average age of the New Zealand vehicle fleet; and (b) what is the current average age of the Australian fleet.
- (26) With reference to Senator Boswell's speech, in which he stated that there was a choice in legislation between the franchisee and the used car importer, and between 48 000 jobs and 6 000: what evidence does the department have in relation to this claim that there were or would be job losses; if so, what is this evidence; if not, where did these figures come from.
- (27) What effect did the introduction of the goods and services tax have on the sale of new cars.
- (28) Under the present Low Volume Scheme (post 8 May 2002), can mainstream car importers now participate, increasing the range of vehicles available to the new vehicle buyer.
- (29) What are the projections for the next 5 years, in percentage terms and raw numbers, for the importation of new vehicles under the Low Volume Scheme.
- (30) (a) Is it correct that under the former scheme there were fewer than 200 3-year old, or younger, vehicles per year imported under the Low Volume Scheme; (b) how many vehicles under the new SEVS: (i) are expected to be

imported that are 3 years old, or younger, per year, and (ii) have been imported since 8 May 2002; and (c) what are the projections for the next 5 years.

- (31) What evidence is there to support the government's position that the importation of low volume used vehicles would significantly affect original vehicle manufacturers.
- (32) (a) What percentages of original manufactured vehicles in Australia were exported in 2002; and (b) what are the projections for the next 5 years, in percentage terms and raw numbers.
- (33) With reference to Senator Boswell's speech, in which he stated that 'Then they registered mum and the kids and had multiple companies, and the cars just flooded in. They went around the system': does the department have any evidence to support the statement that business owners are using their families to get around the system, or that cars are just 'flooding in'.
- (34) How many low volume import businesses are family owned and run.
- (35) Has the department conducted any research on how many vehicles need to be sold to make the importation of these vehicles viable and for legitimate businesses to operate; if so, what were the conclusions of this research.
- (36) Why has the quota of 25 vehicles per category been raised to 100 vehicles per category, allowing 4 times as many vehicles to be imported under the new regulations.
- (37) Why was family association a criteria in RAWS approval when it is discriminatory and when it is clear the criteria should be based on ability, skill and or qualifications.
- (38) What actions were taken by the Federal Office of Road Safety/Vehicle Safety Standards (VSS) to tighten the system in order to prevent or curtail some companies circumventing the rules.
- (39) (a) What representations were made to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Regional Services or the department by the used import industry prior to the new regulation regarding practices within the industry that needed attention; (b) were any suggested methods of addressing these actions brought to the Parliamentary Secretary's or the department's attention during any of these representations; and (c) what actions, if any, were taken in regard to any representations or suggestions made.
- (40) (a) Have there been any complaints concerning the handling of import approvals; and (b) have there been any instances where there were discrepancies between the requested import approval and the issued approval; if so, how many and for what reason.
- (41) Are importers required to pay a further \$50 for an Import Approval which is incorrect.
- (42) (a) What quality assurance mechanisms are in place to ensure that import applications are dealt with in a timely and accurate manner; (b) is there an expected time frame for approvals of such applications; and (c) is there a complaints mechanism in place if approvals are not provided in a timely or accurate manner.
- (43) What recourse does a participant have in RAWS when VSS fails to meet its service standards, particularly in relation to time requirements.
- (44) Does the Department have any advice on the impact of sections 46 to 48 of the Trade Practices Act on SEVS and RAWS.

Notice given 17 February 2004

Senator George Campbell: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 2544-2545)—

- (1) Can the Minister provide information showing trends since 1996 in the number of persons claiming NewStart and Youth Allowance (Other) for more than 3 years.
- (2) Can the Minister provide the most recent of this information by Small Labour Market Area.

2544 Minister for Family and Community Services

2545 Minister for Family and Community Services

Notice given 18 February 2004

2546 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Leader of the Government in the Senate—When will the Minister respond to Senator Allison's letter of 7 April 2003 concerning orders for the production of documents.

2547 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) Why were products that had been manufactured by companies other than Pan Pharmaceuticals, meeting the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) requirements but encapsulated by Pan Pharmaceuticals, included in the 2003 product recall.
- (2) In what sense did these products present an imminent risk of serious illness and death.
- (3) How many products were in this category and can full details be provided.
- (4) Were there any products for which the only involvement of Pan Pharmaceuticals was encapsulation that were not recalled and, if so, can details be provided together with an explanation of why some were recalled and others not.
- (5) Is it the case that Oil of Emu, manufactured by Emu Spirit and encapsulated by Pan Pharmaceuticals, was recalled, but that emu oil products manufactured by Pan Pharmaceuticals are still available in pharmacies and in health food stores; if so, why is this the case.
- (6) On what advice was the TGA raid conducted on Emu Spirit on 12 November 2003.
- (7) What action has been taken regarding the statements made to the media by the TGA media liaison officer, Ms Macnish, concerning Mr Michael Schmidt, Managing Director of ERCA Pty Ltd in January 2004.

2549 **Senator McLucas:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) What are the current average out of pocket costs for the termination of pregnancy; can a holistic response be provided, as well as details, in relation to: (a) anaesthetic; (b) surgery; and (c) ultrasound.
- (2) Can trend information be provided of all out of pocket expenses associated with termination of pregnancy during the latest five-year period for which data is available.
- (3) Have out of pocket costs associated with termination of pregnancy increased throughout the latest five-year period for which data is available and if so, can trend data be provided.

- (4) Can a comparison be provided of out of pocket expenses associated with termination of pregnancy throughout the latest five-year period when compared with other surgical procedures.
- (5) With respect to the Review of MBS items, was termination of pregnancy reviewed; if so, with what effect.
- (6) Is the Department aware of any evidence to suggest that some women may not be in a position to access termination of pregnancy because of cost impediments.

Notice given 20 February 2004

2551 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) Does the Australian Broadcasting Authority (ABA) check whether commercial television stations comply with regulated advertising limits; if so, how does it do this.
- (2) Are all broadcasters checked for compliance 24 hours a day.
- (3) When an advertising pop-up box appears during a program, advertising a forthcoming television series, for example, does the ABA include this as advertising for the purposes of advertising time restrictions; if not, why not.
- (4) Does the ABA include commercial promotions which appear within programs as advertising for the purpose of advertising time limit regulations; if not, why not.

2552 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) Can the Australian Broadcasting Authority (ABA) advise why it has not imposed local news and information requirements on non-aggregated regional market commercial television broadcasters, despite placing such requirements on commercial television broadcasters in the aggregated regional markets.
- (2) Why are Townsville viewers entitled to local news and information and not viewers in Mt Isa.
- (3) Has the ABA reviewed the operation of its new regional news and information requirements and, if so, what was the outcome of these reviews.
- (4) How does the ABA respond to criticisms that the local news requirements are easily met by presenting short one minute news grabs over a whole day, rather than a genuine half-hour locally-based news service.

2553 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—With reference to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's (ABC) answer to a question asked during the Supplementary Estimates hearings of the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee (Question no. 180, Proof Transcript of Evidence p.133, 3 November 2003) regarding Mr Red Symons appearing in advertisements and the ABC's response that Mr Symons may appear in advertisements as he had established a profile before appearing on the ABC:

- (1) Does the ABC concede that Mr Symons' public profile would diminish substantially if he were not the breakfast show presenter on Radio Station 3LO.

- (2) Given that Mr Symons' public profile has been enhanced through his role as an ABC Breakfast Show presenter, will the ABC now reconsider the decision to allow Mr Symons to appear in commercial advertisements or will the organisation continue to consider this to be an 'exceptional circumstance'.

2554 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) Can an update be provided in relation to the postal outlet franchising plan, PostShops.
- (2) Has Australia Post commenced the conversion of any Licensed Post Offices or Corporate Offices into franchised PostShop operations.
- (3) How many franchised outlets are now in operation and where are these located.
- (4) What is the target for the number of franchised outlets over the next few years.
- (5) Does Australia Post have any plans for the redeployment of staff employed in corporate offices earmarked for conversion to franchised outlets.
- (6) What are the wages and conditions of staff in franchised outlets and are these comparable with those of staff in corporate post offices.
- (7) Have any post offices changed from corporate to franchised post offices and, if so, were the staff involved in the move forced to accept redundancies, transfers or reduced wages and conditions.
- (8) The 2002-03 Australia Post annual report states on page 93 that nine Corporate Post Offices (CPOs) closed down during that period. Can details be provided of where these closures occurred, why they occurred, the level of public consultation undertaken before they occurred, and whether any of these CPOs were replaced by franchised operations and, if so, which ones.
- (9) In establishing the Australia Post franchise system, what provision has been made by Australia Post to ensure adequate superannuation entitlements for franchisees and their employees.
- (10) Will the conversion of licensed post offices to franchised outlets be voluntary or forced.
- (11) How will Australia Post ensure that licensed post office operators do not lose value in their licences as a result of the change to the franchised system.
- (12) What are the benefits to Australia Post of converting hundreds of corporate and large Licensed Post Offices (LPOs) to the proposed franchised PostShop operation.
- (13) What criteria will be used for the siting of franchised PostShops, particularly where there is an existing LPO in the vicinity.
- (14) Why does Australia Post limit ownership of the proposed franchised PostShops to partnerships and companies.
- (15) (a) What is Australia Post's contractual arrangement with a franchisee who incurs a trading loss; (b) will Australia Post be prepared to underwrite employee wages and entitlements in this situation; and (c) will the franchisee forfeit the franchise.
- (16) Has Australia Post taken legal advice about whether the proposed contractual arrangement offends against the 'abuse of monopoly power'

provisions of the Trade Practices Act; if so, can a copy of the advice be provided.

2555 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) What are the ramifications for Australia Post of the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) with the United States of America.
- (2) Are there any obligations in the FTA for Australia Post to: (a) be privatised; (b) be opened up to foreign ownership; (c) deregulate any of its reserved services; and (d) face any other form of increased competition.

2556 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) What weight limit applies to Australia Post depot bags.
- (2) Are contractors who handle depot bags covered by Australia Post's Occupational Health and Safety policy.
- (3) What liability rests with Australia Post if an Australia Post contractor sustains an injury caused by lifting an overweight depot bag not bearing a 'two-person lift' label.
- (4) Is it true that Australia Post often loads depot bags to more than 16kg, therefore requiring two people to handle the bag, when these contractors generally operate on their own.
- (5) Is it true that in some instances, Australia Post requests mail contractors to deviate from their routes or exceed the length of their routes to deliver depot bags; if so, will Australia Post make appropriate compensation to contractors for doing this.
- (6) (a) Is it true that Australia Post drop boxes need to be readily accessible to contractors and corporate staff alike, both from the road and the footpath; (b) what is Australia Post's policy on the positioning of drop boxes; and (c) does Australia Post consult with local councils to ensure that boxes are not sited in 'no standing' or 'no parking' areas or on dangerous intersections.

2557 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) What impact will any change in postcodes or postcode boundaries have on existing mail contractors.
- (2) If mail contractors are obliged to collect their mail from another delivery centre as a result of changes to postcode boundaries, is the mail contract reviewed.
- (3) If some mail contracts are becoming so large that it is not possible for existing contractors to perform all of their duties individually, does Australia Post oversight all subcontractors, including performing security checks, drivers licence checks etc.

Notice given 23 February 2004

2558 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) How many community mail agents (CMAs) were there as at 1 January 2004.

- (2) How many community postal agents (CPAs) were there as at 1 January 2004.
 - (3) Are there any community mail and/or postal agencies being run in conjunction with a Rural Transaction Centre.
 - (4) Were any Licenced Post Offices converted to CMA/CPA operations during the 2003 calendar year; if so, can details be provided.
- 2559 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—(a) Does Australia Post intend to continue paying public liability insurance premiums for community postal agents and community mail agents; if so, will Australia Post call for a public tender for this policy; and (b) at present, which insurance broker and/or company provides this insurance.
- 2560 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—What provision is Australia Post making for mail contractors who find it impossible to source reasonably-priced sickness insurance, as required under their mail contracts.
- 2561 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—With respect to the relationship between Australia Post and the Government, for each financial year since 1999-2000, including any forward estimates, can the following details be provided:
- (1) Any dividends paid by Australia Post to the Government.
 - (2) For any special dividends paid to the Government, an explanation of the basis for those special dividends, that is, on whose request and/or recommendation were these dividends paid.
 - (3) For any other capital payments to the Government, an explanation of the basis for those payments, that is, on whose request and/or recommendation were these dividends paid.
 - (4) (a) All remaining balance sheet obligations to the Government, including equity and debt if applicable; and (b) details of how it is expected that these obligations will be met, for example, future loan repayments.
- 2562 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—
- (1) What is the status of the Memorandum of Understanding between Australia Post and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) with regard to the screening of both domestic and international mail.
 - (2) How is this managed in states that have different quarantine requirements, for example, Western Australia and Tasmania.
 - (3) Is a change required to the communications legislation or AQIS legislation to address this issue.
- 2563 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—
- (1) (a) What progress has the Government made in relation to its 2001 election policy to provide fast and reliable Internet services; and (b) has that policy been implemented; if so, can evidence and measurement of actual outcomes be provided.

- (2) (a) What progress has the Government made in relation to its 2001 election policy to extend mobile phone coverage; and (b) has that policy been implemented.
- (3) (a) What progress has the Government made in relation to its 2001 election policy to provide \$88.2 million to extend mobile coverage in rural and regional areas; (b) has that policy been implemented; if so, has all the money for the program been spent; and (c) which communities now have improved mobile coverage as a result of this program.
- (4) How much Commonwealth money is to be spent on extending mobile phone coverage funding in the 2003-04 financial year.
- (5) How much Commonwealth money is to be spent on extending mobile phone coverage in each year of the forward estimates.
- (6) (a) What progress has the Government made in relation to its 2001 election policy to support the greater availability of broadband services; and (b) has that policy been implemented; if so, can details be provided.
- (7) (a) What is the current status of the Government's 2001 election policy to refrain from selling Telstra until arrangements are in place to deliver adequate services to all Australians; and (b) given the Government has already unsuccessfully introduced legislation to sell Telstra, what are these new arrangements.
- (8) What progress has the Government made in relation to its 2001 election policy to address concerns about Internet dumping and premium rate services and can details be provided on what has actually occurred.
- (9) What progress has the Government made in relation to its 2001 election policy to extend electronic and banking services through Australia Post's retail network; and (b) has that policy been implemented; if so, can details be provided.
- (10) (a) What progress has the Government made in relation to its 2001 election policy to extend the Australia Post community service obligation to provide concessional fixed rate delivery for health and educational material to and from remote Australia; and (b) has that policy been implemented; if so, can details be provided.
- (11) (a) What progress has the Government made in relation to its 2001 election policy to introduce a postal services industry ombudsman; and (b) has that policy been implemented.

2564 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) How will the Australian-US free trade agreement affect local content regulation of the commercial broadcasting sector.
- (2) For each of the following: future digital television channels, television multi-channels, and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation: (a) will Australia retain the ability to enact local content requirements; and (b) will there be any restrictions on the extent to which local content requirements can be imposed by regulation; if so, in each case, what restrictions will apply.
- (3) For each of the following: advertising on commercial and pay television, pay television channels, Internet or broadband television, radio, digital radio, Internet radio, and future unknown broadcasting services: (a) will Australia retain the ability to enact local content requirements; and (b) will

there be any restrictions on the amount of local content; if so, in each case, what restrictions will apply.

2565 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) Can a list be provided of all administered programs in the department, including: (a) a description of the program; (b) the number of people directly receiving funds and/or assistance under the program; (c) a breakdown, by electorate, of those receiving funds and/or assistance under the program; (d) the policy objective of the program; (e) whether the program is ongoing; (f) the funding in each financial year of the forward estimates for the program, with a breakdown of administered and departmental expenses, including: (i) how much funding was allocated for the program, (ii) how much is committed to the program, and (iii) how much is unspent; and (g) an indication of whether an evaluation of the program effectiveness has been conducted, showing: (i) when that evaluation occurred, and (ii) any conclusions reached.
- (2) For each of the following financial years: 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, and 2003-04 to date:
 - (a) how many Senior Executive officers (or equivalent) were employed in the department;
 - (b) what was the base and top (including performance pay) wages of APS Level 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (or equivalent), Executive Level 1 and 2 (or equivalent), and Senior Executive Service (SES) band 1, band 2 and band 3 (or equivalent) in the department;
 - (c) what was the average salary for an SES officer (or equivalent) in the department;
 - (d) in relation to mobile phones: (i) how many staff had phones issued by the department, and (ii) what was the total bill for the department;
 - (e) how many SES officers (or equivalent) were issued with cars in the department;
 - (f) in relation to overseas travel: (i) how many overseas trips were taken by employees in the department, (ii) what were the destinations of each of these overseas trips, and (iii) what was the total cost of these overseas trips, including a breakdown on the cost of: (A) accommodation allowances, (B) food allowances, and (C) airfares;
 - (g) what was the total cost of domestic trips by staff of the department, including a breakdown on the cost of: (i) accommodation allowances, (ii) food allowances, and (iii) airfares;
 - (h) in relation to ministerial staff: (i) how many overseas trips by ministerial staff were paid for by the department, and (ii) what was the total cost of these overseas trips;
 - (i) how much was spent on advertising by the department;
 - (j) did the department produce publications that provided electorate breakdowns on spending on government programs;
 - (k) how much was spent on advertising which provided electorate breakdowns of spending by the Government on programs within the department;
 - (l) how much was spent on consultancies by the department; and

- (m) in relation to surveys conducted by the department: (i) did these include any surveys of attitudes towards programs run by the department, (ii) on what programs administered by the department were surveys conducted, and (iii) what were the findings of these surveys.
- (3) For each of the following financial years: 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, and 2003-04 to date, can a list be provided of all 'management retreats and/or training' conducted by the department which were attended by employees, indicating for each meeting held off-site (i.e. away from the department): (a) the location and hotel where the meeting was held; (b) when the meeting was held; (c) how much was spent in total; (d) how much was spent on accommodation; (e) how much was spent on food; (f) how much was spent alcohol and/or drinks; and (g) how much was spent on transport.

2566 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) (a) How does Telstra justify charging some customers an \$11 late payment fee; and (b) given that Telstra is already collecting significantly increased line rental in advance from customers, is this not just a blatant profits grab.
- (2) Can Telstra present any evidence that the average cost of seeking payment of a late account is \$11.
- (3) Does this late payment fee increase cover all of Telstra's billable services, including mobile phone and Internet services.
- (4) Given that Telstra stated in a press release on 20 November 2003 that it costs \$75 million each year to seek payment of unpaid accounts with reminder letters and other follow up steps: (a) how did Telstra arrive at this figure; and (b) how much revenue is Telstra deriving per annum from late fees.
- (5) Given Telstra's statement of 20 November 2003 that raising the late fee threshold from \$55 to \$65 would mean that half of all Telstra bills would not be affected by late fees, on what basis is this claim made.
- (6) Is it correct that a great majority of Telstra's post-paid fixed line bills are for more than \$65, resulting in most of these customers receiving the increased \$11 late payment fee if they pay their bills late.

2567 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) What strategies does Telstra have in place to protect consumers who have been subject to Internet dumping or unauthorised re-connection on their modems, who are then charged for a premium rate service through Telstra's billing systems.
- (2) Is Telstra's Courtesy Call system, announced late in 2003, in operation; if so, at what spending level can consumers be guaranteed to receive courtesy calls stating their bills are higher than normal.
- (3) Will Telstra consider general credit limits on phone and Internet accounts as is the case with credit cards; if not, why not.
- (4) Has Telstra made any effort to cancel premium rate services from areas where IDD Internet dumping is occurring, for example the Cook Islands, Diego Garcia, Tokelau Islands, Sao Tome, Chile, Guyana, Lichtenstein/Germany, Moldova, North Korea and the Cocos Islands; if not, why not.

- (5) What percentage of an international premium rate service charge on a Telstra Bill does Telstra retain as a collection fee.
- (6) Can Telstra guarantee that the international premium rate services for which it charges do not contain illegal pornography.
- (7) What revenue does Telstra derive annually from premium rate services.

2568 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) Is it correct that customers often need significant support when taking up fast data services such as ISDN and ADSL.
- (2) Is it correct that in late 2003, Telstra made 22 highly skilled activation staff in this area redundant; if so, what was the reason for this decision.
- (3) Is Telstra now recruiting agency staff in the same area from the Service Advantage Newcastle Front of House Activation Centre.
- (4) (a) Could the work that is to be performed by these agency staff have been done by the workers made redundant; and (b) were those workers offered any opportunity for redeployment.
- (5) (a) What were the costs incurred by Telstra in making the 22 full-time workers redundant; and (b) what will be the costs of training the new agency staff.
- (6) What is Telstra's current policy on the use of Australian workplace agreements (AWAs).

2569 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—With reference to the relationship between Telstra and the Government, for each financial year since 1999-2000, including any forward estimates, can the following details be provided:

- (1) Any dividends paid by Telstra to the Government.
- (2) For any special dividends paid to the Government, an explanation of the basis for those special dividends, that is, on whose request and/or recommendation these dividends were paid.
- (3) For any other capital payments to the Government, an explanation of the basis for those payments, that is, on whose request and/or recommendation these payments were paid.
- (4) (a) All remaining balance sheet obligations to the Government, including equity and debt if applicable; and (b) can details be provided of how it is expected that these obligations will be met, for example, through future loan repayments.

2570 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—With reference to the answer to question no. 74, taken on notice by the department during the November 2003 Budget estimates supplementary hearings of the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee:

- (1) Given that 45 per cent of Telstra staff are from agencies or from outsourced providers, and are working side by side with Telstra employees, what opportunity do agency and/or outsourced staff have to participate in employee consultations, for example, in the Telstra employee opinion surveys.

- (2) In the previous answer, mention is made of an award provision, which award is referred to.
- (3) Can a list be provided of all Telstra employment agreements and other variants which currently cover call centre staff, regardless of whether they are Telstra staff or agency and/or outsourced staff.
- (4) Has Telstra considered changing the disconnection time on 12456 calls.

2571 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—With reference to the answer to question no. 77 taken on notice by the department during the November 2003 Budget estimates supplementary hearings of the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee: given that the successful contractor for Telstra's faxstream service, Xepedite Systems Pty Ltd, is a trading branch of a multi-billion dollar American-based global conglomerate, can an explanation be provided of: (a) the tendering process for this contract; and (b) why an Australian alternative could not be found.

2572 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) How many errors appeared in the 2004 White Pages and Yellow Pages of all phone books around Australia.
- (2) In the case of Mia Papas and Ms Addenbroke as reported on the Seven Network television program *Today Tonight*, what steps has Telstra taken, or will Telstra take, to remedy the reported errors and will these steps take the form of compensation.

Notice given 24 February 2004

2573 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Small Business and Tourism—With reference to the statement on page 24 of the Tourism White Paper, which indicates that the Australian Tourist Commission (ATC) is establishing a working relationship with the marketing body AusFILM:

- (1) Can the Minister advise: (a) what meetings have taken place between the ATC and AusFILM in relation to establishing this relationship; (b) when and where was each meeting held; (c) who attended each meeting; (d) what were the primary outcomes of each meeting; and (e) were records made of each meeting; if so, can a copy of these records be provided; if not, why not.
- (2) How much Commonwealth funding is committed to this relationship.
- (3) For each of the following financial years: 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08, can a projection of expenditure for these funds be provided.
- (4) How will the effectiveness of the Commonwealth investment of these funds be monitored.

2574 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Small Business and Tourism—

- (1) Can a copy be provided of the current Action Plan for the Development of the Australia-Pacific Cruise Industry.
- (2) Can details be provided of the actions the Government has taken since the release of the Tourism White Paper in November 2003 to review and update the action plan.

- (3) Since 1 July 2002, what meetings have taken place between divisions of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, and/or the Australian Tourist Commission (ATC) and any other party, to review and update the action plan.
- (4) When and where was each meeting held.
- (5) Who attended each meeting.
- (6) What were the primary outcomes of each meeting.
- (7) Were records made of each meeting; if so, can a copy of these records be provided; if not, why not.
- (8) As part of this review, which Commonwealth regulatory and taxation issues are being examined.
- (9) What is the scheduled completion date for the review.
- (10) Can lists be provided of: (a) the parties who have been consulted to date as part of the review; and (b) the parties who it is intended will be consulted as part of the review.

2575 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Small Business and Tourism—

- (1) Can a copy be provided of the current National Tourism Incident Response Plan; if not, why not.
- (2) Was the response plan activated on 21 March 2003 in part as a result of the conflict in Iraq.
- (3) How much funding was provided by the Commonwealth for the response plan for the 2003-04 financial year.
- (4) For each of the following the financial years: 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, can a projection of Commonwealth funding for the response plan be provided.
- (5) Was the response plan reviewed after it was de-activated on 7 August 2003; if so: (a) who conducted the review; (b) what form did the review take; (c) how much did the review cost the Commonwealth; (d) what were the key findings; (e) when will improvements to the response plan recommended by the review be implemented; and (f) can a copy of the review be provided; if not, why not.

2576 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer—

- (1) In relation to the proposed changes to duty free arrangements announced on 18 September, 2003 (media release reference 130/03): (a) what modelling or analysis has been performed or commissioned by the Commonwealth to determine the cost to the Commonwealth of these proposed changes; (b) who performed the modelling or analysis; (c) can a copy of the modelling or analysis be provided; if not, why not; and (d) for each of the following financial years: 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08, what is the projected cost to the Commonwealth of the proposed changes.
- (2) In relation to the proposed changes to duty free arrangements, can details be provided of consultations held by the Commonwealth with state and territory governments since 1 July 2002, and specifically: (a) the date and location of meetings held on this issue; (b) the names and positions of those who attended each meeting; (c) whether a record was made of each meeting; (d) key outcomes of each meeting; and (e) can a copy of the meeting records can be provided; if not, why not.

- (3) (a) What research, analysis or modelling has been performed or commissioned by the Commonwealth to determine the impact on visitor numbers of the proposed changes to duty free arrangements; (b) who performed the modelling or analysis; (c) can a copy of the research modelling or analysis can be provided; if not, why not; and (d) for each of the following financial years: 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08, what projected change in visitor numbers would result from the implementation of these changes.

2577 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Small Business and Tourism—

- (1) Have studies examining the impact of the goods and services tax (GST) on the restaurant, catering and cafe sector in Australia been conducted or commissioned by the department or the Office of Small Business since 1 July 2000; if so: (a) who performed the studies; (b) can a copy of each study be provided; if not, why not; (c) what are the key recommendations of each study; and (d) when will these recommendations be implemented.
- (2) Have studies examining the impact of the GST on small business tourism operators in Australia been conducted or commissioned by the department or the Office of Small Business since 1 July 2000; if so: (a) who performed the studies; (b) can a copy of each study be provided; if not, why not; (c) what are the key recommendations of each study; and (d) when will these recommendations be implemented.

2578 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Small Business and Tourism—With reference to page 66 of the Tourism Green Paper, which refers to the 'establishment of a contingency fund within existing resources ... to finance international and domestic marketing activities in response to major shock':

- (1) When is it proposed to establish this fund.
- (2) For each of the following the financial years: 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08, what is the projected Commonwealth funding commitment for the fund.

2579 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—

- (1) When was the Tourist Refund Scheme established.
- (2) For each of the past 5 financial years, how much has the Commonwealth spent on the scheme for: (a) providing refunds; and (b) marketing the scheme.
- (3) For each of the following financial years: 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08, what is the projected Commonwealth expenditure on the scheme for: (a) providing refunds; and (b) marketing the scheme.
- (4) Has the Commonwealth received proposals from sections of the tourism industry proposing that sections of that industry take over the promotion of the scheme; if so: (a) from whom specifically have such proposals been received; and (b) can a copy of these proposals be provided; if not, why not.
- (5) (a) What assessment has the Commonwealth commissioned or made of these proposals; and (b) can a copy of that assessment be provided; if not, why not.
- (6) What are the key findings of the assessment.
- (7) When will recommendations derived from the assessment be implemented.

- (8) Who will make the final decision about which recommendations to implement and when.

2580 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—

- (1) Can the Minister confirm that the Federal Government has withdrawn its financial support for the proposal by the Australian Mining Industries (AMI) and the Tasmanian State Government to treat acid drainage into the King and Queen Rivers and Macquarie Harbour from the Mount Lyell copper mine.
- (2) Can details be provided of the due diligence investigation into this proposal undertaken by GHD Pty Ltd, and specifically: (a) what was the cost to the Commonwealth of this report; (b) how was GHD Pty Ltd selected to undertake this work; (c) when did work on the report commence and when was it completed; (d) when did the Minister receive the report; (e) who was consulted by GHD Pty Ltd during the preparation of the report and when were they consulted; and (f) what records exist of any meetings undertaken by GHD Pty Ltd as part of the consultation process for this report and can a copy of these records be provided; if not, why not.
- (3) Can a copy be provided of the report produced by GHD Pty Ltd; if not, why not.

2581 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the proposal to treat acid drainage into the King and Queen Rivers and Macquarie Harbour from the Mount Lyell copper mine:

- (1) What are the specific conditions required of the Tasmanian Government and Australian Mining Industries (AMI) by the Federal Government in order for Commonwealth funding to be released for the proposal.
- (2) Since 1 July 2002: (a) what meetings have occurred or correspondence has there been between the Tasmanian Government and the Federal Government in relation to the proposal and, in respect of the meetings, when were they held and who attended; (b) what were the outcomes of the meetings or the correspondence; and (c) can copies be provided of the records of the meetings or the correspondence between the governments; if not, why not.
- (3) (a) What meetings have occurred or correspondence has there been between the Federal Government and AMI in relation to the proposal and, in respect of the meetings, when were they held and who attended; (b) what were the outcomes of the meetings or the correspondence; and (c) can copies be provided of the records of the meetings or the correspondence between the Government and AMI; if not, why not.
- (4) Since 1 July 2002: (a) what meetings have occurred or correspondence has there been between the Minister, Tasmanian senators and/or the Tasmanian State Opposition in relation to the proposal and, in respect of the meetings, when were they held and who attended; (b) what were the outcomes of the meetings or the correspondence; (c) can copies be provided of the records of the meetings or correspondence between the Minister, Tasmanian senators and/or the Tasmanian State Opposition; if not, why not.
- (5) (a) What financial commitments has the Minister obtained from the Tasmanian State Government in relation to this project; (b) when were these financial commitments sought; and (c) when were they given.

- (6) What date has been set by the Minister by which the Tasmanian State Government is to provide alternative proposals for this project

2582 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—

- (1) Since 1 July 2002, has the Minister commissioned or is the Minister aware of studies to determine the extent of environmental damage caused by acid pollution from the Mount Lyell copper mine entering Macquarie Harbour via the King and Queen Rivers; if so: (a) who conducted these studies; (b) if these studies were conducted by Commonwealth appointees, how were these selected; (c) what was the cost to the Commonwealth of these studies; (d) when did work on these studies commence and when was it completed; (e) when did the Minister receive these studies; (f) who was consulted during the preparation of these studies and when were they consulted; and (g) what records exist of any meetings undertaken as part of the consultation process for these studies and can a copy of these records be provided; if not, why not.
- (2) Can a copy be provided of the executive summary and recommendations of any such study funded in whole or part by the Commonwealth; if not, why not.
- (3) Since 1 July 2002, has the Minister commissioned or is the Minister aware of studies of the impacts on public health caused by acid pollution from the Mount Lyell copper mine entering Macquarie Harbour via the King and Queen Rivers, if so: (a) who conducted these studies; (b) if these studies were conducted by Commonwealth appointees, how were these selected; (c) what was the cost to the Commonwealth of these studies; (d) when did work on these studies commence and when was it completed; (e) when did the Minister receive these studies; (f) who was consulted during the preparation of these studies and when were they consulted; and (g) what records exist of any meetings undertaken as part of the consultation process for these studies and a copy of these records be provided; if not, why not.
- (4) Can a copy be provided of the executive summary and recommendations of any such study funded in whole or part by the Commonwealth; if not, why not.
- (5) Since 1 July 2002, has the Minister commissioned or is the Minister aware of studies to determine the potential economic impacts of acid pollution from the Mount Lyell copper mine entering Macquarie Harbour via the King and Queen Rivers; if so: (a) who conducted these studies; (b) if these studies were conducted by Commonwealth appointees, how were these selected; (c) what was the cost to the Commonwealth of these studies; (d) when did work on these studies commence and when was it completed; (e) when did the Minister receive these studies; (f) who was consulted during the preparation of these studies and when were they consulted; and (g) what records exist of any meetings undertaken as part of the consultation process for these studies and can a copy of these records be provided; if not, why not.
- (6) Can a copy be provided of the executive summary and recommendations of any such study funded in whole or part by the Commonwealth; if not, why not.

2583 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—

- (1) Does the department have any record of any request from any United States (US) authority asking for any information about a person identified as Omar Abdi Mohamed.
- (2) If there are any records, in what form are they and when do they show that contact was made with the department by US authorities.
- (3) From which US authorities did the department receive requests, in any.
- (4) For each request: (a) what was the nature of the request; and (b) what information about Omar Abdi Mohamed was contained in the request.
- (5) Did the department respond to these requests; if so, in respect of each response: (a) when; (b) what form did the response take; and (c) to which US authority was the response sent.
- (6) What information about this person did any response include.

2584 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—

- (1) Does the department have any record of any request from any United States (US) authority asking for any information about a person identified as Omar Abdi Mohamed.
- (2) If there are no records of any requests, does this mean that there were no requests made by US authorities to the department relating to this person.
- (3) Can the department expressly reject any claim that any US authority contacted them about this person.
- (4) Does the department have records of requests for information from US authorities about any other person; if so: (a) in what form are these records; and (b) when do these records indicate that such requests were made.
- (5) In general terms, what information is included in such requests about the person who is the subject of the request.
- (6) Are there records of the department ever responding to these requests; if so, in what form are these records; and (b) when were these responses issued.
- (7) In general terms, what information was included in these responses.
- (8) How many times in the past 5 years has the department received requests from foreign authorities for information regarding specific persons.

2585 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—

- (1) Which Commonwealth Government agencies contacted the department with requests for information about a person identified as Omar Abdi Mohamed.
- (2) Which Commonwealth Government agencies accessed information held by the department relating to this person.
- (3) (a) When did each of these requests and/or accesses take place; and (b) which agencies were involved.
- (4) How was the request communicated.
- (5) What was the nature of the information about Omar Abdi Mohamed contained in the request.
- (6) What record does the department have of these requests.

- (7) Did the department ever respond to any of these requests; if so: (a) when; and (b) what general information about Omar Abdi Mohamed was contained in the reply.
- (8) Can any Commonwealth government agency make requests of the department, or access information held by the department, without any record being kept.

2586 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Science—With reference to the survey that the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) is conducting in the Sutherland Shire concerning the sources of information that residents regard as credible in relation to the nuclear reactor:

- (1) What is the cost of the survey to tax payers.
- (2) Will ANSTO, as Sutherland Council does when it conducts surveys, make available the questions asked, the results of the survey and any reports prepared by the company in relation to the survey; if not, why not.

Notice given 25 February 2004

2587 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—

- (1) With reference to the suspension of Mr Brian Johnstone from the position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) media director and part (1) of the answer to question no. 112 taken on notice on 29 May 2003 during the 2003 Budget estimates hearings of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee:
 - (a) what discussions did Mr Wayne Gibbons conduct with Mr Mick Gooda, Ms Ros Kenway and/or Ms Bronwyn Nimmo about Mr Johnstone's conduct: (i) before he was suspended, (ii) at the time of his suspension, and (iii) after he was suspended;
 - (b) if discussions did take place, in what capacity were Mr Gooda, Ms Kenway and/or Ms Nimmo included in those discussions;
 - (c) were persons other than Mr Gooda, Ms Kenway and/or Ms Nimmo consulted by Mr Gibbons in relation to the suspension of Mr Johnstone; if so: (i) who did Mr Gibbons consult, and (ii) in what capacity were they consulted; and
 - (d) was legal advice sought from Ms Kenway, Ms Nimmo and/or any other party in relation to the suspension of Mr Johnstone, if so, when and how was that advice obtained and can a copy of that advice be provided; if not, why not.
- (2) With reference to part (10) of the answer to question no. 112: is it correct that, contrary to the department's advice, Mr Johnstone was first advised of his suspension by hand delivered letter on 18 December 2002.
- (3) Was an official notice posted on the ATSIC Intranet site on 18 December 2002 advising ATSIC staff that Mr Johnstone's replacement, Mr Brian Aarons, would be appointed as media director and the media section renamed the communications branch; if so, can a copy of that notice be provided; if not, why not.
- (4) (a) When did ATSIC first begin its discussions with Mr Aarons about his recruitment to direct the media/communications section; (b) who was involved in those discussions; and (c) how were they conducted.
- (5) Can the Minister confirm that Mr Aaron's position was not advertised.

- (6) Did Mr Johnstone's suspension mean the media section was leaderless from early December 2002 through to February 2003, a period that included a board meeting to elect a new chairperson.
- (7) Did anyone speak to Mr Johnstone about the revamping of the media section; if so, when.
- (8) Was Mr Johnstone offered the opportunity to fill the position filled by Mr Aarons.
- (9) With reference to the guidelines for determining breaches of the code of conduct, dated 5 March 2003 and signed by Mr Gibbons (which were attached to the answer to question no. 112), section five of those guidelines, under the heading 'Determination process to be informal', provides that the process for determining whether an Australian Public Service employee has breached the code of conduct must be carried out with as little formality and as much expedition as a proper consideration of the matter allow: was the investigation into Mr Johnstone's conduct conducted with as little formality and as much expedition as possible.
- (11) Is it correct that Mr Johnstone was suspended for assisting ATSI Commissioner Robinson to write a letter to the then Minister for Indigenous Affairs.
- (12) Did the Minister complain about the letter; if not, who complained about the letter.
- (13) Was an audit undertaken into the activities of the media and marketing section at the time of Mr Johnstone's suspension; if so: (a) when did the audit commence and when was it concluded; (b) what did the audit cost and can a breakdown of those costs be provided; (c) what were the findings of the audit; and (d) can a copy of the audit report be provided; if not, why not.

2588 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—What data collected by the Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit since January 2001 on the incidence of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome is available.

2589 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—With reference to data collected by Health Canada, which indicates that nicotine levels in tobacco used in cigarettes increased by 53 per cent between 1968 and 1995:

- (1) What data is available concerning nicotine levels in tobacco used in cigarettes in Australia over this and subsequent periods and can a copy of this data be provided.
- (2) If no such data is available: (a) what steps is the Government taking to collect such data; and (b) can it be assumed that the increases in nicotine levels in tobacco used in cigarettes in Australia are comparable to those in Canada; if not, why not.

Notice given 26 February 2004

2590 **Senator Bartlett:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources—

- (1) (a) How much did the Commonwealth spend on benthic exploration (seismic and otherwise) for each of the following financial years: 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03; and (b) how much has the Commonwealth spent since 30 June 2003.

- (2) (a) How much did Geoscience Australia spend on benthic exploration (seismic and otherwise) for each of the following financial years: 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03; and (b) how much has Geoscience Australia spent since 30 June 2003.
- (3) (a) How much did the Commonwealth spend on offshore acreage release for each of the following financial years: 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03; and (b) how much has the Commonwealth spent since 30 June 2003.
- (4) (a) How much did the Commonwealth receive in royalties from oil and gas operations in Australian waters for each of the following financial years: 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03; and (b) how much has the Commonwealth received since 30 June 2003.
- (5) (a) What subsidies including grants, low interest loans and tax relief did the Commonwealth give the oil and gas industry, with respect to their offshore operations, during each of the following financial years: 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03; and (b) can a list of recipients and amounts be provided.
- (6) (a) What subsidies has the Commonwealth given the oil and gas industry, with respect to their offshore operations, since 30 June 2003; and (b) can a list of recipients and amounts be provided.
- (7) What area of seabed was released for oil and gas exploration during each of the following financial years: 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03; and (b) what area of seabed has been released since 30 June 2003.
- (8) What was the available area in 1993.
- (9) How many functional oil and/or gas rigs: (a) are currently in Australian waters; and (b) were in Australian waters in 1993.
- (10) Is an environmental impact assessment carried out prior to the release of acreage for oil and gas exploration; if not, why not.
- (11) Does the department undertake a public consultation program prior to the release of acreage for oil and gas exploration; if not, why not.
- (12) Does the Minister for the Environment and Heritage have a right of veto over the release of acreage for oil and gas exploration, as opposed to simply a right to be consulted; if not, why not.
- (13) If a person is granted an offshore exploration lease, and approval for the next stage of development (be it the next stage of exploration, or production operations) is not granted, is the person entitled to receive compensation.
- (14) (a) How many offshore exploration applications were received for each of the following financial years: 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03; and (b) how many of these were: (i) refused, and (ii) refused on environmental grounds.
- (15) (a) How many offshore production applications were received for each of the following financial years, 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03; and (b) how many of these were: (i) refused, and (ii) refused on environmental grounds.
- (16) In considering offshore acreage release: (a) does the department have and use comprehensive benthic and pelagic ecosystem and species information for the areas being considered; if not, what is the nature of the information used; (b) does the department rely on the Department of the Environment and Heritage for this information; and (c) what level of certainty does that information provide in considering the environmental impact of petroleum activities.

- (17) In the absence of comprehensive benthic and pelagic ecosystem and species information for Australian waters, does the department take a precautionary approach to acreage release; if not, why not.
- (18) Are there any areas of existing offshore acreage that overlap with the Broad Areas of Interest for Marine Protected Areas in the South East Marine Region; if so, where are they.
- (19) Are there any areas being considered in the current round of acreage release that would overlap with the Broad Areas of Interest for Marine Protected Areas in the South East Marine Region; if so: (a) where have they; and (b) why have they been released at the same time that Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are being considered for those areas.
- (20) Is the department seeking to ensure that oil and gas operations are allowed in MPAs.

2591 **Senator Bartlett:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—

- (1) For each of the following financial years: 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03: (a) how much did the Government spend on the National Reserve System program; and (b) how much of this was spent on land acquisitions.
- (2) For the 2003-04 financial year to date: (a) how much has the Government spent on the National Reserve System program; and (b) how much of this has been spent on land acquisitions.

2592 **Senator Bartlett:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—

- (1) How much has the Government spent on the processes of identifying and selecting Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Murray and Zeehan Broad Areas of Interest within the South East Marine Region.
- (2) Will the Government set targets for the percentage of the South East Marine Region bioregions that should be protected in MPAs and the percentage of the South East Marine Region bioregions that should be declared to be 'no-take' areas; if so, what are those targets expected to be.
- (3) What role has the National Oceans Office played in the MPA identification and selection process for the South East Marine Region.
- (4) Will a candidate system of MPAs be included in the final South East Regional Marine Plan; if not, why not.

2593 **Senator Bartlett:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—

- (1) Have any fish species that are targeted by commercial fishers been included on the list of threatened species under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- (2) Has the department received any notifications from fishers about encountering listed species.
- (3) Does the department receive data from the Australian Fisheries Management Authority concerning encounters with listed species; if so, does this data include the time and date of the encounters and the name of the species concerned.

2594 **Senator Bartlett:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—

- (1) (a) Which lists of threatened ecological communities have been identified by the Minister for consideration under subsection 185(2) of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*; and (b) how many threatened ecological communities are included on these lists.
- (2) Can a list be provided of the threatened ecological community nominations that have been assessed by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) as not satisfying the listing criteria on the basis the ecological community concerned was not defined at a 'national' scale.
- (3) When did the Minister receive the advice from the TSSC concerning the nomination of firewood harvesting as a key threatening process under the Act.
- (4) How much has the Government spent on measures to directly improve water quality since 1996.

Notice given 1 March 2004

2595 **Senator Cherry:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) With reference to the discussion paper on the importation of vehicles 15 years or more years old released by the Vehicle Safety Standards in January 2004: (a) what is the breakdown by classification of the vehicles listed in Table A; (b) is it correct that the classifications are LA, LB, LC, NA, NB, NC, MA, MB and MC; and (c) are there any other classifications.
- (2) What specific types of vehicles are in each of the classifications.
- (3) Given that in 1999 the Review of the *Motor Vehicles Standards Act 1989* Review Task Force, which reported in August 1999, listed in Table 6-2 of its report that in 1998, 3474 vehicles 15 years or more old were import approved, but in the 2004 discussion paper released by the Vehicle Safety Standards, 3565 vehicles were listed as being import approved in that year: (a) what is the reason for the discrepancy; and (b) which figure is correct.
- (4) What vehicles were approved in 1998, by specific vehicle type and classification.
- (5) What is the basis for the inclusion of vehicles in the figures that make up Table A in the 2004 discussion paper.
- (6) With reference to the statement in the 'Background' section of the 2004 discussion paper that 'The intent of this arrangement when it was introduced was to provide for the importation of older vehicles on the basis that they were generally imported for restoration and club use'; and a very similar statement made on page 98 of the report of the Review of the Motor Vehicles Standards Act 1989 Review Task Force: from where is this statement derived.
- (7) Was this statement restated and included in legislation as part of the Registered Automotive Workshop Scheme/Specialist and Enthusiast Vehicle Scheme changes made in 2001.
- (8) By year and classification, for the past 10 years of the low volume scheme, how many vehicles were imported under the low volume scheme that were golf buggies, motorbikes, snow mobiles, trikes, trucks and other non-standard motor cars.
- (9) By year and classification, for the past 10 years of the low volume scheme, how many vehicles were imported under the 15 year or more old scheme

that were golf buggies, motorbikes, snow mobiles, trikes, trucks and other non-standard motor cars.

- (10) In relation to the impact statement listed in the 2004 discussion paper, will there be an audit of the scheme and process by an independent body, that is, one which is not affiliated with either of the parties involved in or the department responsible for involved in the administration of the scheme; if not, how will the integrity of the outcomes and process of investigation reported in the impact statement be assured.

2596 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs—With reference to the *Australia's Overseas Aid Program Statistical Summary 2001-2002*, in the line items 'Energy generation and supply':

- (1) (a) What are the nuclear power plant projects funded at \$3 016 000 in the 1999-2000 financial year, \$1 993 000 in the 2000-01 financial year, and \$4 million in the 2001-02 financial year; (b) where are these power plants located; (c) which companies were awarded the construction contracts; (d) who maintains and manages the plants; and (e) are there any conditional arrangements for the nuclear power plants to use Australian uranium.
- (2) In the 1999-2000 financial year there was an allocation of \$206 000 for coal-fired power plants: (a) where were these plants located; (b) which companies constructed them; (c) who manages and maintains these plants; and (d) are there any conditional arrangements for the coal-fired power plants to use Australian coal.
- (3) In the 2000-01 financial year there was an allocation of \$25 000 for coal-fired power plants: (a) where were these plants located; (b) which company or companies won the construction contracts; (c) who manages and maintains these plants; and (d) are there any conditional arrangements for the coal-fired power plants to use Australian coal.
- (4) In the 2000-01 financial year there was an allocation of \$311 000 for oil-fired power plants: (a) where were these plants located; (b) which companies constructed them; (c) who manages and maintains these plants.
- (5) In the 2001-02 financial year there was an allocation of \$2 703 000 for oil-fired power plants: (a) where were these plants located; (b) which companies constructed them; (c) who manages and maintains these plants.
- (6) Given there was no funding for solar, wind, and ocean power projects in the 2001-02 financial year and only \$8 000 for biomass in the 2001-02 financial year: (a) what was the allocation of \$500 000 in line item 'power generation/renewable' for; (b) what were these projects; (c) which companies constructed them; and (d) who manages and maintains them.
- (7) In 1999-2000 financial year there was \$3 636 000 spent on solar energy projects: (a) where were these projects located; (b) which companies constructed them; and (c) who manages and maintains them.
- (8) Given the change in size of allocation for different energy projects as indicated in the statistical summary: what guides Government decisions on which energy projects to fund.
- (9) Are there any environmental or social guidelines for financing energy projects in the aid budget.
- (10) At the 2003 World Summit on Sustainable Development, Pacific Island Countries prepared a Pacific Regional Statement that made clear calls for renewable energy assistance; given the process whereby recipient countries approach the Australian Government for bi-lateral assistance for specific

projects, rather than Australia offering to fund projects unsolicited: (a) why is there no allocation for renewable energy projects in the Pacific region within the aid budget; and (b) has Australia any commitment to fulfilling these requests for renewable energy projects and research and development.

- (11) In the 1998-99 financial year there was an allocation of \$785 000 for renewable energy projects (power generation): (a) where were these projects located; (b) which companies constructed them; and (c) who manages and maintains these projects.
- (12) Has there been any evaluation of the renewable energy projects funded by AusAID and are these evaluations available for public viewing.

2597 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister for Defence—Following the department's decision not to proceed with the extension of the Lancelin defence training area:

- (1) At what stage is the department in the process of identifying an alternative site for a new defence training area in Western Australia.
- (2) If the department has identified any possible sites, where are they.
- (3) When will the department decide on a new training site for Western Australia.

2598 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister for Defence—With reference to the department's statement that South East Fibre Exports (SEFE) will provide, at no cost, monitoring of Defence security cameras at the Navy wharf and amenities building in Bega, New South Wales, during periods when the wharf is accessible to the public:

- (1) Why is a private company using navy security equipment.
- (2) What services is the Navy providing to SEFE in exchange for services to the Navy.
- (3) From what date did SEFE commence providing this service to the Navy.
- (4) (a) Is there documentation in relation to this arrangement; and (b) how did it originate.
- (5) Is it common practice to have staff of a private company monitoring Navy security cameras.
- (6) Are there, or have there been, any other instances of such arrangements elsewhere.
- (7) When SEFE monitors events on Navy cameras that require a response from security personnel, who makes the decision about whether security personnel need to attend the site and who would employ the security personnel who would attend the site.
- (8) Are there Navy personnel monitoring the Navy wharf and amenities building at present; if not, does the Navy expect that personnel will be stationed at this location in the future.

2600 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—With reference to the answer to part (1) of question no. 79, taken on notice during the November 2003 Budget estimates supplementary hearings of the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee, in which it was stated that access revenue subject to price controls increased by \$169 million and call revenue subject to price control decreased by \$52 million: Can the Minister confirm that Telstra's revenue increased by \$117 million in total under the new

2002 price controls (including both access and call price controls), in the 2002-03 financial year.

- 2601 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the Alternative Fuels Conversion Program: Does the Government still plan to spend \$75 million on the program, as agreed with the Australian Democrats in 1999:
- (a) if so: (i) over how many years, including previous financial years, does the Government plan to spend the \$75 million, (ii) what is the actual value in 2004 dollars of the \$75 million if expenditure is spread out over the number of years answered in (a)(i), and (iii) can forward estimates be provided for all future program years; and
 - (b) if not: (i) what is the planned total expenditure in relation to the program, (ii) over how many years, including previous financial years, does the Government plan to spend the amount answered in (b)(i), and (iii) can forward estimates be provided for all future program years.
- 2602 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the Alternative Fuels Conversion Program:
- (1) As of 30 June 2003: (a) how many: (i) compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles, and (ii) liquid natural gas (LNG) vehicles, had been purchased with funding assistance from the program; and (b) can details be provided of the funding provided for each purchase, with separate details for heavy commercial vehicles and buses.
 - (2) (a) How many vehicles are expected to be purchased with funding assistance from the program by 30 June 2004; and (b) can separate details be provided in relation to the purchase of CNG and LNG vehicles.
 - (3) As of 30 June 2003: (a) how many vehicles had been converted to: (i) CNG, and (ii) LNG, with funding assistance from the program; and (b) can details be provided of the funding provided for each conversion, with separate details for heavy commercial vehicles and buses.
 - (4) (a) How many vehicles are expected to be converted to: (a) CNG; and (b) LNG by 30 June 2004; and (b) can this figure be broken down by vehicle type, for example, passenger car, bus.
 - (5) (a) How many new vehicles were sold annually in Australia over the period July 2000 to June 2003; and (b) can this figure be broken down by vehicle type e.g. passenger car, bus.
- 2603 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the Alternative Fuels Conversion Program:
- (1) In an attachment to the Prime Minister's letter to Senator Meg Lees, entitled 'Changes to the goods and services tax (GST)', dated 31 May 1999, it was stated that the program would 'support the conversion of half the urban bus fleet to gas by 2015': will this target be met; if not, what percentage of the urban bus fleet is expected to be converted to gas by 2015 as a result of the program.
 - (2) How many buses are currently registered in Australia.
- 2604 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the Alternative Fuels Conversion Program:

- (1) As of 30 June 2003, how much of the expenditure on the program has been on administration.
- (2) As of 30 June 2003, how much of the expenditure on the program has been spent on: (a) the purchase of new vehicles; (b) the conversion of existing vehicles; and (c) the development and testing of engine technologies.
- (3) (a) When were the program guidelines changed so as to allow for manufacturers developing and testing engine technologies that can demonstrate greenhouse gas benefits and maintain air quality emissions performance; and (b) why were these changes to the program guidelines made.
- (4) Can details be provided of the funding provided to date for to manufacturers to develop and test engine technologies under the program, including details of the manufacturer and a description of the work to be undertaken as a result of the grant.
- (5) Is operating a vehicle (rather than simply having the capacity to operate a vehicle) on compressed natural gas (CNG) or liquid natural gas (LNG) a condition of funding for new vehicle purchase under the program; if not, why not.
- (6) What monitoring mechanisms, if any, are in place to ensure that those who receive funding for new vehicle purchases under the program actually run their cars on CNG or LNG, as opposed to petrol.

2605 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the Alternative Fuels Conversion Program:

- (1) (a) How much has been spent on the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Infrastructure Program; and (b) how much funding has been provided to energy suppliers through the program.
- (2) How many refuelling stations have been established as a result of the CNG Infrastructure Program; (b) for each refuelling station established, what is the name of the energy supplier and in which state or territory is the station located; and (c) how much CNG has been sold through each refuelling station since they were established.
- (3) With reference to the announcement in January 2001, the then Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Hill, that 'Commonwealth grants of almost \$4.7 million have been offered to national energy suppliers, Origin Energy and Agility Management to establish the fuelling facilities' at 16 sites, which would take to 19 the number of sites established around the country: For each of the 19 sites can details be provided of: (a) the amount of the grant offered; (b) whether it has been spent; (c) whether the site is operational and if not, when the site is likely to become operational; (d) if the site will not become operational, whether the Commonwealth will take steps to recover monies that the Commonwealth has expended for the development of that site; and (e) how much fuel has been sold since it was established.
- (4) For each financial year between June 1990 and July 2003, how much CNG was sold, by: (a) volume; and (b) value.
- (5) For each financial year between June 1990 and July 2003, how much LNG was sold, by: (a) volume; and (b) value.
- (6) Is the CNG Infrastructure Program still expected to result in emissions abatement of 0.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.

- (7) Given that Australia's Third National Communication to the United Nations states that 'the number of publicly accessible CNG refuelling sites is expected to increase to over 30 within the next 18 months': has this increase occurred; if not, how many publicly accessible CNG refuelling sites are now operational.

2606 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) What percentage of total unreferral general practitioner (GP) attendances were bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Division of Denison during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (2) How many unreferral GP attendances were bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Division of Denison during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (3) What was the average patient contribution per service (patient billed services only) in relation to unreferral GP attendances in the Federal Electoral Division of Denison during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (4) How many unreferral GP attendances were there in the Federal Electoral Division of Denison during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.

2607 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) What nutritional supplements for use by health professionals have been denied listing by the Therapeutic Goods Administration over the past 10 years and for what reason.
- (2) Which of these products is currently available in New Zealand and the United States of America.
- (3) What is the appeal process when a nutritional supplement is denied listing.

2608 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Science—
(a) Can the Government confirm that Dr John Loy, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA), indicated at the public forum on the national nuclear waste repository held in Adelaide on 25 February 2004 that the Minister could not override the findings and decision of ARPANSA in relation to the repository; and (b) is this statement correct.

2609 **Senator McLucas:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) What percentage of total unreferral general practitioner (GP) attendances were bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Division of Dawson during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (2) How many unreferral GP attendances were bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Division of Dawson during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (3) What was the average patient contribution per service (patient billed services only) in relation to unreferral GP attendances in the Federal Electoral Division of Dawson during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (4) How many unreferral GP attendances were there in the Federal Electoral Division of Dawson during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.

2610 **Senator McLucas:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) What percentage of total unreferral general practitioner (GP) attendances were bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Division of Herbert during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (2) How many unreferral GP attendances were bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Division of Herbert during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (3) What was the average patient contribution per service (patient billed services only) in relation to unreferral GP attendances in the Federal Electoral Division of Herbert during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (4) How many unreferral GP attendances were there in the Federal Electoral Division of Herbert during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.

2611 **Senator McLucas:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) What percentage of total unreferral general practitioner (GP) attendances were bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Division of Kennedy during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (2) How many unreferral GP attendances were bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Division of Kennedy during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (3) What was the average patient contribution per service (patient billed services only) in relation to unreferral GP attendances in the Federal Electoral Division of Kennedy during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (4) How many unreferral GP attendances were there in the Federal Electoral Division of Kennedy during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.

2612 **Senator McLucas:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) What percentage of total unreferral general practitioner (GP) attendances were bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Division of Leichhardt during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (2) How many unreferral GP attendances were bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Division of Leichhardt during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (3) What was the average patient contribution per service (patient billed services only) in relation to unreferral GP attendances in the Federal Electoral Division of Leichhardt during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (4) How many unreferral GP attendances were there in the Federal Electoral Division of Leichhardt during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.

Notice given 2 March 2004

2613 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the Greenhouse Gas Abatement Program: Does the Government still plan to spend \$400 million on the program, as agreed with the Australian Democrats in 1999:

- (a) if so: (i) over how many years, including previous financial years, does the Government plan to spend the \$400 million, (ii) what is the actual value in 2004 dollars of the \$400 million if expenditure is spread out over the number of years answered in (a)(i), and (iii) can forward estimates be provided for all future program years; and

- (b) if not: (i) what is the planned total expenditure in relation to the program, (ii) over how many years, including previous financial years, does the Government plan to spend the amount answered in (b)(i), and (iii) can forward estimates be provided for all future program years.

- 2614 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the Greenhouse Gas Abatement Program: As of the end of June 2003, how much of the expenditure on the program has been spent on: (a) funded projects; (b) administration; and (c) other government programs.
- 2615 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the Greenhouse Gas Abatement Program and given that program funds have been used to support departmental programs which, for a range of reasons, would not have been approved under the program guidelines, for example, domestic greenhouse policy development and greenhouse international policy and reporting and greenhouse sinks:
- (1) Can a list be provided of all other departmental programs and/or activities that have been funded from expenditure originally allocated to the program for the 2000-01 financial year, including existing programs and/or activities that were continued or extended using funding originally allocated to the program in 2000-01.
 - (2) For each program and/or activity listed in paragraph (1): (a) what funds have been made available from the program; and (b) what funds are planned to be made available annually over the life of the program.
- 2616 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the Greenhouse Gas Abatement Program: (a) Has the Government considered using program funds to pay for the Commonwealth's share of the \$150 million joint Commonwealth/state commitment to reduce land clearing in Queensland; and (b) has the Government considered using program funds for other government initiatives to reduce land clearing.
- 2617 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the Greenhouse Gas Abatement Program: (a) As at 30 June 2003, what was the abatement value of the program, expressed as dollars per tonne of emissions abated; and (b) can details be provided of the activities that have been taken into account in determining the answer to (a).
- 2618 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the Greenhouse Gas Abatement Program: As at 30 June 2003, what tonnage of greenhouse gas emissions was abated as a result of the program.
- 2619 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the Greenhouse Gas Abatement Program: Given that Australia's Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change states that the program will abate the equivalent of over 26 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in the first Kyoto commitment period, however the summary table at 4.1 states that the program will only lead to a reduction of 10.8 million tonnes by 2010: (a) What is the reason for the discrepancy; and (b) how much greenhouse gas abatement is now estimated for the program in: (i) the first commitment period, and (ii) the second commitment period.

- 2620 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to an attachment to the Prime Minister’s letter to Senator Lees, dated 31 May 1999, entitled ‘Changes to the goods and services tax (GST)’, in which it was stated that ‘the Government intends that upon passage of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Bill 1998 it will commence a process of consultation with the states and other stakeholders on the issue of applying a Commonwealth greenhouse trigger under that legislation in relation to new projects that would be major emitters of greenhouse gases’: (a) can details be provided for each year from 2000-01 to 2003-04 of the consultation work that has so far been undertaken; and (b) does the Government intend to introduce a greenhouse trigger into the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* during its next term of office.
- 2621 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer—(a) How much revenue has the Government collected as a result of the introduction of the extra one cent per litre excise on high sulphur diesel as from 1 July 2003; and (b) how much money had been provided to producers of low sulphur diesel as at 31 December 2003 as a result of the initiative.
- 2622 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to oil recycling:
- (1) (a) What was the expenditure on the product stewardship arrangements for waste oil as at the end of the 2002-03 financial year; (b) what is the planned total expenditure for the program; and (c) can forward estimates be provided for all future program years.
 - (2) (a) As at the end of the 2002-03 financial year, how much waste oil had been recycled as a result of the product stewardship arrangements for waste oil; and (b) what proportion of the total amount of waste oil produced during that period does this represent.
- 2623 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the Photovoltaic Rebate Program:
- (1) (a) For how many photovoltaic systems have rebates been provided through the program; and (b) can a breakdown be provided of the number of systems for which rebates have been provided in each year since the programs inception, the number of systems per state, and the number of systems for each use, for example, household, community building, residential property developments.
 - (2) As at the 30 June 2003: (a) what tonnage of greenhouse gas emissions was abated as a result of the program; and (b) what was the abatement value of the program, expressed as dollars per tonne of emissions abated.
- 2624 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the Renewable Energy Development and Commercialisation Program: Does the Government still plan to spend \$26 million on the program, as agreed with the Australian Democrats in 1999.
- (a) if so: (i) over how many years, including previous financial years, does the Government plan to spend the \$26 million, (ii) what is the actual value of the \$26 million if expenditure is spread out over the number of years answered in (a)(i), and (iii) can forward estimates be provided for all future program years; and
 - (b) if not: (i) what is the planned total expenditure in relation to the program, (ii) over how many years, including previous financial years, does the

Government plan to spend the amount answered in (b)(i), and (iii) can forward estimates be provided for all future program years.

2625 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the Renewable Remote Power Generation Program:

- (1) Does the Government still plan to spend \$264 million on the program, as agreed with the Australian Democrats in 1999:
 - (a) if so: (i) over how many years, including previous financial years, does the Government plan to spend the \$264 million, (ii) what is the actual value of the \$264 million if expenditure is spread out over the number of years answered in (a)(i), and (iii) can forward estimates be provided for all future program years; and
 - (b) if not: (i) what is the planned total expenditure in relation to the program, (ii) over how many years, including previous financial years, does the Government plan to spend the amount answered in (b)(i), and (iii) can forward estimates be provided for all future program years.
- (2) Can details be provided of all grants awarded under the program, including:
 - (a) the company and/or individual awarded; (b) the purpose of the grant; (c) the total amount of grant; (d) the amount of grant to be specifically spent on renewable energy technology as opposed to design, management, installation and other associated costs; (e) the estimated abatement value; and (f) which objectives of the program the project meets, for example, helping provide an effective electricity supply to remote users, assisting the development of the Australian renewable energy industry, helping meet the energy infrastructure needs of indigenous communities, and leading to long-term greenhouse gas reductions.
- (3) As at the end of the 2002-03 financial year, what was the abatement value of the entire program, expressed in dollars per tonne of emissions abated.
- (4) As at 30 June 2003, what was the greenhouse gas abatement value of the program.
- (5) With reference to a submission to the Economics Legislation Committee inquiry into the Diesel Fuel Rebate Scheme Amendment Bill 2002 in which the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) stated that ‘the extension of the Diesel Fuel Rebate to small retail/hospitality businesses could reduce the potential target market for the Commonwealth Renewable Remote Power Generation Program by up to 21 million litres or about 4% of total diesel fuel consumed, although accurate data on the diesel fuel used by these businesses is not available’: (a) what does the AGO estimate has been the effect on the program of extending the rebate to small retail and/or hospitality businesses during the 2002-03 financial year; and (b) can an estimate be provided of the reduction of the target market, expressed in litres of diesel fuel.

2626 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer—

- (a) What was the total value of the grants provided under the Diesel and Alternative Fuels Grants Scheme in each year since the scheme’s inception, including in the answer details of the total value of the grants for each fuel type; and
- (b) what was the total value of the grants provided under the scheme in each year for the period July 2003 to December 2003, including in the answer details of the total value of the grants for each fuel type.

- 2627 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer—What was the total cost of administering the Diesel and Alternative Fuels Grants Scheme during the 2002-03 financial year.
- 2628 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer—(a) What was the total value of the rebates provided each year under the Diesel Fuel Rebate Scheme during the period July 1990 to June 2003, including details of the total value of the rebates for each off-road use; and (b) what was the total value of the rebates provided under the scheme during the period July 2003 to December 2003, including details of the total value of the rebates for each off-road use.
- 2629 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources—How much diesel was sold in Australia each year during the period July 1990 to June 2003.
- 2630 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources—How much ethanol was sold in Australia each year during the period July 1990 to June 2003.
- 2631 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources—How much liquid petroleum gas was sold in Australia each year during the period July 1990 to June 2003.
- 2632 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer—What was the cost of administering the Diesel Fuel Rebate Scheme in the 2002-03 financial year.
- 2633 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—
- (1) What percentage of total unreferral general practitioner (GP) attendances was bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Divisions of Forde, Maranoa, Moncrieff, McPherson and Groom during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
 - (2) How many unreferral GP attendances were bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Divisions of Forde, Maranoa, Moncrieff, McPherson and Groom during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
 - (3) What was the average patient contribution per service (patient billed services only) in relation to unreferral GP attendances in the Federal Electoral Divisions of Forde, Maranoa, Moncrieff, McPherson and Groom during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
 - (4) How many unreferral GP attendances were there in the Federal Electoral Divisions of Forde, Maranoa, Moncrieff, McPherson and Groom during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- 2634 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister for Justice and Customs—
- (1) How many container examination facilities are now operational around Australia.
 - (2) (a) How many full-time Australian Customs Service (ACS) personnel are employed at these facilities; and (b) at what Australian Public Service (APS) levels are these personnel employed.
 - (3) (a) How many part-time ACS personnel are employed at these facilities; and (b) at what APS levels are these personnel employed.
 - (4) Is it still intended that industry will bear the costs associated with the logistics operations for the facilities.

- (5) What percentage of the cost is currently borne by industry.
- (6) (a) How many full-time ACS personnel are employed in the Profiling and Alerts Section of the ACS and at what APS levels are these personnel employed; and (b) is this expected to change in the near future.
- (7) (a) How many part-time ACS personnel are employed in the Profiling and Alerts Section of the ACS and at what APS levels are these personnel employed; and (b) is this expected to change in the near future.

2635 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister for Justice and Customs—

- (1) What is the status of Release 2 of the Integrated Cargo System.
- (2) Has this release been delivered according to schedule.
- (3) To date, how much has the system cost.
- (4) Has any analysis of its effectiveness so far taken place; if so, what were the results.
- (5) What is the status of Release 3 of the Integrated Cargo System.
- (6) Has the date of Release 3 been delayed further since its last postponement and what is the current expected date.
- (7) To date, what has been the cost of delivery of the system.
- (8) What is the expected annual cost of using the system when it is finally fully operational.
- (9) To date, what has been the response from industry to the releases that have taken place.
- (10) What is the expected response from industry once the system is fully operational.

2636 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister for Justice and Customs—

- (1) What percentage of passengers is now processed before arrival in Australia using the Advance Passenger Processing system.
- (2) Is this figure in line with expectations for the system's performance.
- (3) Are any full-time Australian Customs Service (ACS) personnel exclusively employed on Advance Passenger Processing; if so, at what Australian Public Service (APS) levels are these personnel employed.
- (4) Are any part-time ACS personnel exclusively employed on Advance Passenger Processing; if so, at what APS levels are these personnel employed.
- (5) Are any aspects of the maintenance and/or utilisation of the system contracted out to other government agencies, or to the private sector; if so, what is the cost of this.
- (6) How many airlines' passenger information databases are currently available to ACS for passenger analysis.
- (7) What percentage of the total number of airlines that fly to Australia does this represent.
- (8) When is the linking of airline passenger information databases with the ACS expected to be completed.
- (9) Does this linking form a component of the system; if not: (a) are any full-time ACS personnel employed on accessing airline passenger information; and (b) at what APS levels are these personnel employed.

- (10) Are any part-time ACS personnel employed on accessing airline passenger information; if so, at what APS levels are these personnel employed.
- (11) Is access to airline passenger information free of charge from the airlines concerned; if not, what is the total cost to ACS of accessing this information.

2638 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister for Justice and Customs—

- (1) Has any estimate been made of the annual cost of leasing the ice-strengthened patrol boat for which the request for tender was issued last week, for duties in the Southern Ocean.
- (2) Will the vessel be added to those under the direction of the National Marine Unit.
- (3) Are there any plans to acquire more vessels of this type.
- (4) How many crew is the vessel expected to require.
- (5) Will these crew be drawn from existing Australian Customs Service (ACS) personnel.
- (6) Will the entire crew, or just the boarding party component, be made up of ACS personnel.
- (7) Will these crew require additional training for working in arctic conditions.
- (8) Has any estimate been made of how much this training might cost; if so, what is the estimated cost.

2639 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister for Justice and Customs—

- (1) How many Australian ports are covered by the Australian Customs Service (ACS) CCTV network.
- (2) What percentage of the international ports in Australia does this represent.
- (3) From where is this CCTV system monitored.
- (4) Does monitoring take place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- (5) (a) How many ACS personnel are involved in this monitoring; and (b) at what Australian Public Service levels are they employed.

2640 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister for Justice and Customs—(a) How many Australian Customs Service (ACS) personnel are employed in the National Marine Unit Investigations and Enforcement Operations Branch of the ACS, in Canberra; and (b) at what Australian Public Service levels are these personnel employed.

2641 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister for Justice and Customs—

- (1) How many personnel are employed in the National Surveillance Centre in Canberra.
- (2) (a) Are all these personnel employed by the Australian Customs Service; and (b) at what Australian Public Service levels are they employed.
- (3) Is the centre fully operational 24 hours a day.
- (4) Is the centre responsible for surveillance operations in the Western Australian time zone.
- (5) Is the centre fully operational during daylight hours in the Western Australian time zone.
- (6) Is the centre fully operational on weekends; if so, during what hours.

2644 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister for Justice and Customs—

- (1) Do the crew on the Australian Federal Police (AFP) launches receive training specifically for boarding vessels with the consent of the masters of those vessels.
- (2) Is this training conducted by the AFP.
- (3) Was the training package for this role designed by the AFP; if not, who designed the training package.
- (4) Do the crew on the AFP launches receive training specifically for boarding vessels without the consent of the masters of those vessels.
- (5) Is this training conducted by the AFP.
- (6) Was the training package for this role designed by the AFP; if not, who designed the training package.

2645 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister for Justice and Customs—

- (1) What changes have taken place in the Australian Federal Police (AFP) as a result of the Government's 'National e-security agenda'.
- (2) (a) How many full-time staff does the AFP employ to investigate and/or analyse threats to national e-security; and (b) at what Australian Public Service (APS) levels are they employed.
- (3) (a) How many part-time staff does the AFP employ to analyse and/or investigate threats to national e-security; and (b) at what APS levels are they employed.

2646 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister for Justice and Customs—

- (1) What changes have taken place in the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) as a result of the Government's 'National e-security agenda'.
- (2) (a) How many full-time staff does ASIO employ to investigate and/or analyse threats to national e-security; and (b) at what Australian Public Service levels are they employed?

2647 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister for Justice and Customs—

- (1) (a) How many full-time personnel are employed in the Criminal Justice and Security Group of the Attorney-General's Department; and (b) at what Australian Public Service (APS) levels are they employed.
- (2) (a) How many part-time personnel are employed in the group; and (b) at what APS levels are they employed.
- (3) What changes have taken place in the group as a result of the Government's 'National e-security agenda'.
- (4) (a) How many full-time staff are employed within the group in order to investigate and/or analyse threats to national e-security; and (b) at what Australian Public Service (APS) levels are they employed.
- (5) (a) How many part-time staff are employed within the group in order to analyse and/or investigate threats to national e-security; and (b) at what APS levels are they employed.

2648 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister for Justice and Customs—

- (1) What progress has been made in relation to the implementation of the SmartGate system at international airports around Australia.
- (2) Which airports currently use the system.

- (3) Are there any plans to introduce SmartGate at other airports around Australia; if so: (a) at which airports; and (b) what is the expected cost.
- (4) What is the current cost of maintaining and/or utilising the system.
- (5) Are any full-time Australian Customs Service (ACS) personnel employed in using or maintaining the system; if so: (a) at what Australian Public Service (APS) levels are they employed; and (b) how is this expected to change in the future if the system expands.
- (6) Are any part-time ACS personnel employed in using or maintaining the system; if so: (a) at what Australian Public Service (APS) levels are they employed; and (b) how is this expected to change in the future if the system expands.

2650 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) (a) How many full-time personnel are employed by the National Office for the Information Economy (NOIE) in order to fulfil that agency's e-security role; and (b) at what Australian Public Service (APS) levels are these personnel employed.
- (2) (a) How many part-time personnel are employed by NOIE in order to fulfil that agency's e-security role; and (b) at what APS levels are these personnel employed.

2651 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation—

- (1) (a) How many full-time Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) personnel are involved in AQIS's contribution to the 'Australia's Southern Ocean - Surveillance and Enforcement' program; and (b) at what Australian Public Service (APS) levels are these people employed.
- (2) (a) How many part-time AQIS personnel are involved in the program; and (b) at what APS levels are these people employed.

2652 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister for Justice and Customs—

- (1) (a) How many full-time Australian Customs Service (ACS) personnel are employed at international airports around Australia; and (b) at what Australian Public Service (APS) levels are these personnel employed.
- (2) (a) How many part-time ACS personnel are employed at international airports around Australia; and (b) at what APS levels are these personnel employed.
- (3) What duties are assigned to these personnel.
- (4) Is there any overlap with the duties of the Australian Protective Service personnel at international airports.

2653 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—With reference to page 25 of the department's 2003 portfolio additional estimates statements:

- (1) What function does the department have in relation to counter-terrorism assistance for the Philippines.
- (2) Has any funding been allocated for this function.
- (3) Has any expenditure occurred in relation to this function.
- (4) Has there been any review of the effectiveness of any expenditure.
- (5) Are there any plans for more funds to be allocated for this measure in the future.

- (6) Is the department involved in any similar programs in other countries.
- (7) Are there any plans for the department to become involved in any similar programs in other countries.
- (8) (a) How many full-time departmental personnel are employed in the Border Control and Compliance Division; and (b) at what Australian Public Service (APS) levels are these personnel employed.
- (9) (a) How many part-time staff are employed in the Border Control and Compliance Division; and (b) at what APS levels are they employed.
- (10) Does this division supervise the Movement Alert List; if not, which division of the department has responsibility for this list.
- (11) (a) How many full-time staff does this division employ; and (b) at what APS levels.
- (12) (a) How many part-time staff does this division employ; and (b) at what APS levels.
- (13) Are departmental personnel normally involved in maritime border protection operations; if so, how.
- (14) (a) How many departmental personnel would normally be involved; and (b) at what APS levels would they be employed.
- (15) Is there a dedicated taskforce or group within the department that deals with this role; if so: (a) how many departmental personnel are involved; (b) at what APS levels are they be employed; and (c) are there any plans to increase or decrease these levels in the near future.

2654 **Senator Webber:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) What percentage of total unreferrred general practitioner (GP) attendances was bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Division of O'Connor during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (2) How many unreferrred GP attendances were bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Division of O'Connor during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (3) What was the average patient contribution per service (patient billed services only) in relation to unreferrred GP attendances in the Federal Electoral Division of O'Connor during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (4) How many unreferrred GP attendances were there in the Federal Electoral Division of O'Connor during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.

2655 **Senator Webber:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) What percentage of total unreferrred general practitioner (GP) attendances was bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Division of Moore during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (2) How many unreferrred GP attendances were bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Division of Moore during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (3) What was the average patient contribution per service (patient billed services only) in relation to unreferrred GP attendances in the Federal Electoral Division of Moore during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (4) How many unreferrred GP attendances were there in the Federal Electoral Division of Moore during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.

- 2656 **Senator Marshall:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—
- (1) What percentage of total unreferral general practitioner (GP) attendances was bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Divisions of Deakin, Menzies, Corangamite and Gippsland during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
 - (2) How many unreferral GP attendances were bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Divisions of Deakin, Menzies, Corangamite and Gippsland during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
 - (3) What was the average patient contribution per service (patient billed services only) in relation to unreferral GP attendances in the Federal Electoral Divisions of Deakin, Menzies, Corangamite and Gippsland during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
 - (4) How many unreferral GP attendances were there in the Federal Electoral Divisions of Deakin, Menzies, Corangamite and Gippsland during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- 2657 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Minister for Justice and Customs—In relation to the meeting on 11 October 2001 of the Board of Management which oversaw the Joint Australian Federal Police/Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs People Smuggling Strike Team: (a) who attended this meeting; (b) were minutes or notes taken; if so, can a declassified version of the minutes and/or notes be provided to the Senate.
- 2658 **Senator Stott Despoja:** To ask the Minister for Family and Community Services—
- (1) Can the Minister confirm the status of the scoping study into the interpreting needs of the deaf, which was commissioned to 'examine the supply, demand and funding of Auslan interpreter services throughout Australia', and was originally due to be completed on 24 October 2004.
 - (2) Given that the department provides 'a fee-free interpreting service to certain English speaking individuals and groups in the community who provide settlement related services to permanent visa holders (that is, permanent residents) and Australian citizens who do not speak English' and that any doctor that meets the criteria listed on the department's website can use the service, but deaf Australians are not able to access Government-funded interpreters for medical appointments in a private practice: When will deaf Australians be extended the same rights as those from non-English speaking backgrounds in relation to Government-funded interpreting services.
- 2659 **Senator Stott Despoja:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Education, Science and Training—
- (1) How much will the discontinuation of the Educational Textbook Subsidy Scheme (ETSS) save the Government.
 - (2) Given that the ETSS was set up to 'alleviate the impact of the GST on the cost of educational textbooks for students and parents', how can the Government justify closing the scheme at the end of June when the goods and services tax (GST) is still in place.
 - (3) Does the Government have any plans to alleviate the impact of GST on the cost of educational textbooks after the closure of the scheme.
 - (4) Given that booksellers went to great lengths to ensure their computer programs were able to manage the ETSS, not to mention the costs they

incurred in auditing the scheme, does the department intend to compensate booksellers for the expense of again amending or renewing their software to take into account the closure of the scheme.

- (5) Given that many booksellers and students are unaware that the scheme will close at the end of June 2004, how does the department intend to notify booksellers and students about the scheme's closure.
- (6) Given that booksellers are worried they will be blamed if the scheme closes at the end of June and the price of textbooks increases by 8 per cent, does the department have any strategies for avoiding this.
- (7) Given that textbooks are a student's primary learning resource, if the Government regards education as a priority, how does it justify taxing students every time they seek to learn.
- (8) Given that the Australian Medical Student's Association President, Mr Matthew Hutchinson, has slammed the proposed plan to end the ETSS rebate on text books, stating that 'The people of Australia deserve and need well trained, competent doctors. The plan to remove the ETSS rebate puts quality textbooks out of reach of most medical students. This cuts off a vital source of training and education and will only lead to poor outcomes for our patients', how can the Government justify closing the ETSS in light of these concerns.
- (9) Will any money be unspent under the ETSS or any other scheme; if so, does the department intend to redirect those funds to book-related projects.
- (10) Can the Minister confirm whether the Educational Lending Right scheme will be continued past 30 June 2004.
- (11) Can the Minister confirm whether funding will continue to be provided to the Australian Bureau of Statistics to continue collecting statistics on the book industry after 30 June 2004.

Notice given 3 March 2004

2660 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—In relation to asylum seekers who have been placed in detention centres within the past 3 years:

- (1) (a) How many families have claimed to have originally come from Afghanistan; (b) how many of these claims have been accepted by Australian immigration authorities and how many have been rejected; and (c) in how many cases were the asylum seekers deemed to have come from Pakistan.
- (2) (a) How many families have claimed to be of one of the following ethnic backgrounds: (i) Pashtun, (ii) Tajik, and (iii) Hazara; (b) how many of these claims have been accepted by Australian immigration authorities and how many have been rejected; and (c) of those claims accepted, in how many cases have the families been forced to return to their country of origin.
- (3) What criteria, if any, have been applied to ensure that it was safe for these families to return.

2661 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—

- (1) For each of the past 5 years, how many people of the Mandaean religion have been held in detention centres as asylum seekers.

- (2) In which of these centres has yaloofi meat preparation been available to the Mandeans; if none, why not,
- (3) If the reason for yaloofi meat not being available relates to health standards: (a) what is the relevant health standard; and (b) what potential health problems are associated with the provision of yaloofi meat.

Senator Brown: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 2662-2663)—

- (1) Is it the case that a person on a standard maximum Newstart benefit receives \$385 per fortnight, or \$10 010 per annum.
- (2) Is it the case that when a person receives \$90 or more for paid employment, the benefit is then classified as taxable income.
- (3) For a person on Newstart who earns \$90 in a financial year:
 - (a) is the Newstart allowance reduced to \$9996;
 - (b) assuming no other sources of income and no deductions, is the taxable income deemed to be \$10 086 (i.e. \$9 996 + \$90);
 - (c) is the tax on this income equal to \$694.62;
 - (d) is the net income after tax equal to \$9 436.38 (i.e. \$10 086 - \$694.62); and
 - (e) does this represent a net loss to that person of \$573.62 (i.e. \$10 010 - \$9436.38).
- (4) Is a loss on earnings of \$90 equivalent to a tax of over 700 per cent.

2662 Minister for Family and Community Services

2663 Minister for Family and Community Services

2664 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—

- (1) Is the Minister aware: (a) of an article by Britain's most senior government scientist, Sir David King, published in the journal *Science* of 10 January 2004, in which he stated that 'In my view, climate change is the most severe problem that we are facing today – more serious even than the threat of terrorism'; (b) that as the world's only remaining superpower, the United States of America (US) is accustomed to leading internationally co-ordinated action, but at present the US Government is failing to take up the challenge of global warming'; and (c) that Dr King, in his article, also pointed out that the US is currently responsible for 20 per cent of global greenhouse emissions.
- (2) Will the Minister back the call of Dr King for the Bush Administration to take urgent action to significantly reduce US emissions of greenhouse gases.

2666 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—With reference to a letter written by the Minister's Senior Policy Adviser, David Kelly, to Ms Margaret Hale of Bateau Bay, New South Wales, regarding the slow Internet speeds of 12 kbps experienced by Ms Hale because of obsolete telecommunication connections:

- (1) Did Mr Kelly indicate that 19.2 kbps is the 'absolute minimum' standard.
- (2) Did Mr Kelly indicate that a 64kbps service is part of the universal service obligations that Telstra must meet.
- (3) Did Mr Kelly refer the matter to Telstra.
- (4) What percentage of customers must still rely upon the technology that Mr Kelly indicated was unsatisfactory.

- (5) For what percentage of customers is Telstra still unable to meet its universal service obligations.
- (6) What steps is Telstra taking to meet its obligations to all customers.
- (7) Can the Government be satisfied that Telstra services to rural areas meet the minimum requirements for the sale of the Government share of the organisation if the universal service obligations are not being fully met.

2667 **Senator Bolkus:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) What percentage of total unreferral general practitioner (GP) attendances was bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Division of Hindmarsh during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (2) How many unreferral GP attendances were bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Division of Hindmarsh during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (3) What was the average patient contribution per service (patient billed services only) in relation to unreferral GP attendances in the Federal Electoral Division of Hindmarsh during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (4) How many unreferral GP attendances were there in the Federal Electoral Division of Hindmarsh during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.

2668 **Senator Bolkus:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) What percentage of total unreferral general practitioner (GP) attendances was bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Division of Barker during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (2) How many unreferral GP attendances were bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Division of Barker during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (3) What was the average patient contribution per service (patient billed services only) in relation to unreferral GP attendances in the Federal Electoral Division of Barker during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (4) How many unreferral GP attendances were there in the Federal Electoral Division of Barker during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.

2669 **Senator Wong:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) What percentage of total unreferral general practitioner (GP) attendances was bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Divisions of Adelaide and Boothby during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (2) How many unreferral GP attendances were bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Divisions of Adelaide and Boothby during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (3) What was the average patient contribution per service (patient billed services only) in relation to unreferral GP attendances in the Federal Electoral Divisions of Adelaide and Boothby during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (4) How many unreferral GP attendances were there in the Federal Electoral Divisions of Adelaide and Boothby during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.

2670 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs—

- (1) With reference to the Government's package of additional benefits for veterans announced on 2 March 2004, why is rent assistance for war widows postponed until March 2005, as stated in the Minister's press release.
- (2) Of the 45 000 veterans said to benefit from the exemption of disability pensions from the Centrelink means test, can a breakdown be provided showing: (a) Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI), (b) Intermediate Rate, and (c) other veterans.
- (3) For those ex-service people in receipt of a Disability Support Pension from Centrelink who do not have any other income, what will be the net benefit from this measure for a single person.
- (4) Of the 19 000 persons estimated to benefit from the exemption of disability pension payments from the Centrelink means test, can a breakdown be provided showing: (a) age, (b) TPI, (c) Intermediate Rate, and (d) others.
- (5) Why is the new Defence Force Income Support Allowance (DFISA) being introduced in preference to changing the *Social Security Act 1991*.
- (6) Did the Minister and the Department of Family and Community Services refuse to amend the Act, resulting in the adoption of the DFISA alternative.
- (7) What will be the cost of implementing the DFISA.
- (8) What arrangements have been put in place between Centrelink and the department to exchange information on the rate of DFISA to be paid, and will there be a Memorandum of Understanding between Centrelink and the department on this matter.
- (9) (a) Will calculations be based on the same payday; and (b) what delay, if any, will occur between supply of rates and actual payment.
- (10) Given that only the above general rate of the special rate is to be indexed against the Consumer Price Index/Male Total Average Weekly Earnings, why was the whole special rate exempted from the Centrelink means test.
- (11) Does the exemption of the entire special rate from the Centrelink means test effectively remove the traditional distinction between benefits paid to those with qualifying service and those without; if so, what is the justification for this change, and is this a calculated and deliberate removal of the distinction, at least in part.
- (12) What is the average fortnightly increase to be paid to TPI recipients as the result of the indexation of the above general rate.
- (13) (a) Does the Government intend to introduce legislation in relation to the measures in the 2 March 2004 announcement; if so, when; and (b) what are the likely commencement dates of payment for each benefit.
- (14) How many dependant children of TPI veterans are there.

Notice given 5 March 2004

2671 **Senator Hutchins:** To ask the Special Minister of State—During the life of the Government, which members of Parliament have changed electorate offices; and for each move: (a) what expenses were involved in facilitating the move; and (b) did the move involve breaking a lease agreement.

2672 **Senator Crossin:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) What percentage of total unreferred general practitioner (GP) attendances was bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Division of Solomon during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (2) How many unreferred GP attendances were bulk billed in the Federal Electoral Division of Solomon during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (3) What was the average patient contribution per service (patient billed services only) in relation to unreferred GP attendances in the Federal Electoral Division of Solomon during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.
- (4) How many unreferred GP attendances were there in the Federal Electoral Division of Solomon during the quarter ending 31 December 2003.

2673 **Senator Evans:** To ask the Minister for Defence—In relation to the Timber Creek – Bradshaw Field Training Area Infrastructure project:

- (1) How many Indigenous people or corporations employing indigenous people were employed in contracts awarded under stage 1 of the project.
- (2) Have those Indigenous people who unsuccessfully tendered for stage 1 of the process been told to seek sub-contracting opportunities from the successful tenderers.
- (3) (a) Can a list be provided of individuals or companies that have been contracted to undertake work on the project and the amount they are being paid; and (b) how many Indigenous people are employed by these companies.
- (4) Have tenders been published for stage 2 of the project.
- (5) Can a copy be provided of the tender for stage 2; if not, will the planned work be tendered as a package, or divided into sub-projects.
- (6) Is there any requirement for individuals or companies tendering for stage 2 to specify: (a) how many Indigenous Australians they employ; and (b) that they will sub-contract to Indigenous building companies.
- (7) Has the department examined whether Indigenous employment outcomes would be improved by seeking separate tenders for different parts of stage 2 of the project; if not, will the department undertake to do so.
- (8) (a) Has the Bradshaw Partnering Indigenous Land Use Agreement been registered and ratified; if not, why not; (b) what are the issues of contention between the department and the relevant Indigenous people; (c) when was the agreement originally scheduled for registration; and (d) when is the agreement expected to be registered and ratified.
- (9) Why is the revised budget estimate for the 2003-04 financial year \$11 million less than the original budget estimate.
- (10) Have contracts been awarded for the majority of the works, including road and airfield construction.
- (11) Can a list be provided of the commencement date for each work stage of the project.
- (12) When is the entire project expected to be finished.

Notice given 8 March 2004

2674 **Senator Webber:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Employment Services—

- (1) What Work for the Dole projects have been conducted in the Yanchep/Two Rocks area of Western Australia.
- (2) Were any projects conducted in areas contaminated by unexploded ordnance.
- (3) Do Work for the Dole participants have the right to refuse to participate where health and safety concerns exist.
- (4) Were participants notified that the area was contaminated by unexploded ordnance.

2675 **Senator Webber:** To ask the Minister for Defence—

- (1) What is the status of unexploded ordnance in the Yanchep/Two Rocks area of Western Australia.
- (2) What action has the Commonwealth taken to ensure that there is no contamination by unexploded ordnance in the St. Andrew's development area.
- (3) Does the Commonwealth have any responsibility in the event of unexploded ordnance detonating during any development activity at St. Andrews.
- (4) Is the Minister aware that the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia will not allow ground personnel to fight bushfires in the area due to unexploded ordnance contamination.

2676 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—With reference to the prospective trial of Mr David Hicks, an Australian citizen, before a United States of America (US) Military Commission:

- (1) Is Australia a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- (2) Is the US a party to the same International Covenant.
- (3) Does this International Covenant provide that in the determination of a criminal charge against a person, 'everyone shall be entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law'.
- (4) Will the proposed military commission to try Mr Hicks, established under and governed by the procedures of the Military Order on the Detention, Treatment and Trial of Certain Non-Citizens in the War Against Terrorism, signed by President George W Bush on 13 November 2001, constitute an 'independent and impartial tribunal' as required by the International Covenant.

2677 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—With reference to the prospective trial of Mr David Hicks, an Australian citizen, before a United States of America (US) Military Commission:

- (1) Is it correct that under the Military Order on the Detention, Treatment and Trial of Certain Non-Citizens in the War Against Terrorism, signed by President George W Bush on 13 November 2001, statements obtained by torture (defined for the purpose of this question as meaning coercion, physical or psychological, inflicted or threatened, in order to procure a statement by a person) would not be inadmissible as evidence against Mr Hicks on that ground.

- (2) Is it correct that under the terms of the Order, evidence will be admissible 'if it has probative value to a reasonable person', and that evidence obtained by torture may have probative value as specified in the Order.

2678 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—With reference to the prospective trial of Mr David Hicks, an Australian citizen, before a United States of America (US) Military Commission:

- (1) Is Australia a party to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment which entered into force on 26 June 1987.
- (2) Is the US a party to the same Convention.
- (3) Does Article 15 of that Convention provide that 'each state shall ensure that any statement which is established to have been made as a result of torture, shall not be invoked as evidence in any proceedings, except against a person accused of torture as evidence that the statement was made'.
- (3) Do the rules concerning the admissibility of evidence, as set out in the Military Order on the Detention, Treatment and Trial of Certain Non-Citizens in the War Against Terrorism, signed by President George W Bush on 13 November 2001, conform with Article 15 of the Convention.

2679 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—With reference to the prospective trial of Mr David Hicks, an Australian citizen, before a United States of America (US) Military Commission:

- (1) Has the Australian Government made any representations to the US Administration concerning the adequacy of the rules governing the admissibility of evidence in any trial of Mr Hicks; if so, what were these representations.
- (2) Has the US Administration, in response to representations by the Australian Government or otherwise, made any statements to the Australian Government about the rules of evidence governing the trial of Mr Hicks, either: (a) generally; (b) in regard to the admissibility of statements procured by coercion; and/or (c) in regard to the entitlement of Mr Hicks to challenge the admissibility of statements on that ground; if so, what was the substance of the statements.

2680 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—

- (1) With reference to visitor visa applications received from Fijian nationals in the past 2 years:
 - (a) how many applications were lodged;
 - (b) (i) how many applications were: (A) approved, (B) rejected, and (C) withdrawn, and (ii) what percentage of applicants are still being processed;
 - (c) how many applications were initially rejected but accepted on appeal;
 - (d) what was the average time for processing an application;
 - (e) what was the average charge, expressed in Australian dollars, levied on the applicant for processing the application;
 - (f) what was the average bond, expressed in Australian dollars, that successful applicants were required to lodge as a guarantee that they would leave Australia in the required time; and

- (g) of those Fijian nationals refused a visa, how many were offered an interview in which they could present their case for a visa.
- (2) What are the corresponding statistics for Fijian nationals applying for a work visa.
- (3) What are the corresponding statistics in relation to both visitor visa and work visas, for applications from Nepalese nationals.
- (4) What are the corresponding statistics in relation to both visitor visa and work visas, for applications from British nationals.
- (5) (a) Are there guidelines used by departmental officers when deciding whether visa applications should be approved or rejected; if so, are these guidelines publicly available; and (b) is the presence of family members in Australia ever used as a reason for rejecting a visa application; if so, under what circumstances.

Senator George Campbell: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 2681-2682)—Since the rollout of Employment Services Contract 3 began (in approximately April 2003), how many individuals have been found to be fraudulently claiming the NewStart Allowance, Youth Allowance or any other allowance, for example, by claiming benefits when they were already in paid employment.

2681 Minister for Family and Community Services

2682 Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women

Notice given 9 March 2004

- 2683 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Trade—With reference to the answer to a question without notice Senator Nettle asked of the Minister representing the Minister for Trade on 4 March 2004 in relation to the free trade agreement (FTA) made between the governments of Australia and the United States of America in February 2004, into which of the three categories of side letters do each of the side letters to the FTA mentioned in the answer fall.
- 2684 **Senator Evans:** To ask the Minister for Defence—With reference to the Beecroft Weapons Range:
- (1) (a) Is it proposed that a visitor information centre be constructed at the range; and (b) what will the construction of the proposed centre involve, for example, construction of roads, car park, fire management zones, amenities block, shop, office etc.
 - (2) Where exactly is it proposed that the centre be built.
 - (3) How much will it cost to construct the centre.
 - (4) Is the department aware of the environmental sensitivity of the proposed site for the centre.
 - (5) How much land will have to be cleared to enable construction of the proposed centre.
 - (6) Have any environmental studies been conducted on the proposed site; if so: (a) what were the findings of these studies; and (b) can a copy of these studies be provided.
 - (7) (a) Were other sites considered for the proposed centre; if so, why were they rejected; and (b) why was the western side of the Lighthouse Road near the existing ranger station chosen as the preferred site.

- (8) Was cleared land on the eastern side of the road opposite the current ranger station considered as a site for the proposed centre; if not, why not; if so, why was this site rejected, given that the land is already cleared.
- (9) How much has been spent on the project to date, including all environmental fees, legal fees, property management fees etc.

2685 **Senator Evans:** To ask the Minister for Defence—Can a list be provided of all properties that are owned or leased by the Australian Defence Organisation, including but not limited to all offices, logistics and warehousing/stores sites, bases, establishments and other properties, indicating for each property: (a) details of: (i) its size, (ii) its address, and (iii) whether it is currently owned by the Commonwealth or leased; (b) whether the property has been identified for future disposal; and (c) whether it has been identified as surplus to requirements and, if so, the intended timetable for, and method of, disposal.

2686 **Senator Harris:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General—

- (1) When the *Administrative Arrangements Act 1987* was amended by Schedule 1, item 48 of the *Public Employment (Consequential and Transitional) Amendment Act 1999*, what were the words removed after the words 'include, references', which were replaced by the words 'to an SES employee, or acting SES employee, in the Department who is specified in the notice'.
- (2) At any time before sections 10 and 11 of the *Child Support (Registration and Collection) Act 1987* were amended by Schedule 5 of the *Child Support Legislation Amendment Act 2001*, did section 19 of the *Administrative Arrangements Act 1987* provide that, through publication of a written notice published in the *Gazette*, or otherwise:
 - (a) references to the Commissioner of Taxation in a relevant instrument are to be, or are to include, references to the Child Support Registrar; and/or
 - (b) references to the Child Support Registrar in a relevant instrument are to be, or are to include, references to the Commissioner of Taxation.

Notice given 11 March 2004

2687 **Senator Crossin:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the \$1 million compensation package for tourism operations in Kakadu National Park:

- (1) (a) Will the money be paid to Northern Territory tour operators; and (b) will this money be drawn from an existing appropriation: if so, from where in the budget has the money been derived; if not, will the money be an additional appropriation.
- (2) Will the money from the compensation package, announced as a result of the closure of Twin Falls to swimming in Kakadu National Park, be paid to Parks Australia for dispersal, or paid directly to Northern Territory tour operators.
- (3) If the money is to be paid to Parks Australia, how will it be spent.
- (4) If tour operators are to receive the money directly: (a) on what basis will it be allocated; and (b) will it be in the form of a grant.
- (5) How did the Minister arrive at the amount of \$1 million as compensation for tourism operators: (a) was this based on the number of operators in the Territory who advertised Twin Falls as a destination within their tours; or

(b) did Tourism Top End determine this to be an adequate amount to compensate tour operators.

- (6) When will the money be available and to whom.
- (7) If the money is to be spent on infrastructure, does the Federal Government regard this as indirectly compensating Northern Territory tour operators, as stated by Senator Scullin on radio.

2688 **Senator Crossin:** To ask the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women—With reference to the Indigenous Women's Advisory Group (IWAG):

- (1) (a) What was IWAG's intended role when the Office of the Status of Women (OSW) established it in 2002; and (b) what is its current role or function.
- (2) Who are the current members of IWAG.
- (3) (a) How often is IWAG supposed to meet each year; (b) how often did it meet in 2003; and (c) how many meetings are scheduled for 2004, and when are these to be held.
- (4) (a) How often did OSW meet with IWAG in 2003; and (b) when is OSW scheduled to meet with IWAG in 2004.
- (5) With reference to the Prime Minister's announcement on 28 August 2003 that \$20 million is to be spent addressing violence in Indigenous communities: (a) did the Prime Minister consult IWAG on this issue prior to the announcement; (b) did this consultation form part of the Prime Minister's decision; and (c) what contribution did IWAG make towards the allocation of funding for specific projects or areas.
- (6) Does OSW have responsibility for any of the programs included in the Prime Ministers announcement; if so, can details be provided.
- (7) (a) Is the \$400 000 announced by the Prime Minister to address violence in Indigenous Communities under the National Initiative to Combat Sexual Assault additional funding for the initiative; (b) was that amount included in the women's policy outcome budget for 2003-04; (c) is this money an additional appropriation; and (d) does OSW have responsibility for administering this money.
- (8) For the 2002-03 financial year and to date for the 2003-04 financial year, how much has been spent on addressing violence in Indigenous communities and towards Indigenous women: (a) by OSW; (b) on the Partnerships Against Domestic Violence Program; (c) on the National Initiative to Combat Sexual Assault program; and (d) on other programs.

2689 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister for Family and Community Services—

- (1) Has Centrelink been directed to perform searches in relation to incomes earned by recipients in previous years; if so: (a) when were these searches conducted; (b) who directed or ordered the searches; (c) can a copy be provided of the direction or order; (d) how many Centrelink staff have been allocated to perform the assessments; (e) at what Australian Public Service levels are these staff employed; (f) were any staff seconded from other areas of Centrelink to complete these searches; if so, from which areas of Centrelink were staff seconded and were they replaced to maintain staffing levels; if not, were extra staff employed; (g) which Centrelink benefit recipients were targeted; (h) was this specified in the direction or order; and (i) when did the assessments commence.

- (2) Was the time period for which Centrelink was directed to assess payments against income earned specified.
- (3) (a) How many clients of Centrelink, both past and present, are currently being assessed in relation to their incomes in preceding years; and (b) what period does the assessment cover.
- (4) How many debt advices were issued in the 24 months to February 2004 as a result of these checks.
- (5) How much was the average debt.
- (6) How much was the largest debt.
- (7) What percentage of those debts were in the range: (a) \$1-\$100; (b) \$101-\$500; (c) \$501-\$1 000; (d) \$1 001-\$2 000; and (e) \$2 001 and above.
- (8) As a result of these debts being raised in the 24 months to February 2004: (a) how many debt advices have been appealed; and (b) in relation to these assessments: (i) how many have been finalised; (ii) how many are currently under review; (iii) how many were withdrawn by the recipient, what reasons were provided by recipients for withdrawing appeals, and at what stage of the appeals process did the majority of recipients withdraw their requests for appeal, (iv) in how many cases did the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) and/or the Social Security Appeals Tribunal (SSAT) find in favour of the recipient, and (v) how many original debt advices were reduced as a result of the appeals process; if any, can reasons be provided as to why the debts were reduced.
- (9) What is the cost in staff hours for an administrative review officer (ARO) to review an appeal.
- (10) What is the dollar cost per hour of employing an equivalent ARO.
- (11) (a) If an appeal fails and a further appeal is placed by the debtor, how many staff hours does Centrelink allocate to preparation for AAT and SSAT appeals; and (b) can this cost be provided both as a dollar figure and as a percentage of the budget.
- (12) Can an estimate be provided of how much it costs Centrelink and other Commonwealth agencies or tribunals to hear and prepare for these appeals, broken down by agency.
- (13) What is the maximum debt figure that may be waived.
- (14) Do team leaders or Centrelink management have a discretion to waive debts; if so, can details be provided of: (a) the guidelines for these discretionary powers; and (b) how this discretion is determined.
- (15) Of the debt recovery cases, how many produced a debt: (a) in which the recovery payment may be waived; (b) of between \$100 and \$500; (c) of between \$501 and \$1 000; (d) of between \$1 001 and \$3000; and (e) greater than \$3 001.
- (16) Can a list be provided of the debt categories by benefit.
- (17) Have any prosecutions been initiated as a result of checks against income for the financial years preceding 2003-04; if so, can information be provided on any subsequent prosecutions including: (a) the amount of the debt; (b) the period in which the debt was accrued; and (c) the name of the benefit received by the recipient.

2690 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) (a) How many personnel are employed within the Disaster Medicine Unit of the department; and (b) at what Australian Public Service levels are they employed.
- (2) Does the unit lease its own premises, independent from the department; if so, what is the annual cost of this lease.
- (3) Is the unit responsible for the provision of antidotes, medicines, etc.: (a) in the event of a national disaster; and (b) if an incident is not officially declared a national disaster.
- (4) (a) Upon whose request would these antidotes, medicines, etc. be made available to states or territories; and (b) on whose authorisation would such a request be granted.
- (5) Would these antidotes, medicines, etc. be supplied directly to the state or territory law enforcement authorities, health department or some other agency; if so, to whom.
- (6) What other responsibilities would the unit have in the event of a disaster.

2691 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources—

- (1) (a) How many personnel are employed within the Australian Government Analytical Laboratories (AGAL); and (b) at what Australian Public Service (APS) levels are they employed.
- (2) Do these laboratories have a function in the analysis of materials from major emergencies, such as terrorists incident, involving radiological materials.
- (3) Would this be the same for an incident involving: (a) biological materials; (b) chemical materials; and (c) conventional explosive materials.
- (4) Is there a special unit or division within AGAL tasked with this responsibility; if so, at what APS levels are the staff employed.

2692 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) (a) How many personnel are employed within the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPNSA); and (b) at what Australian Public Service (APS) levels are they employed.
- (2) Would ARPANSAs be responsible for and/or capable of responding to an accident or other incident involving radiological material: (a) at an Australian nuclear facility; and (b) outside an Australian nuclear facility.
- (3) Does ARPANSAs have a specific unit or division tasked with these emergency response capabilities; if so: (a) how many personnel are employed within this unit or division; and (b) at what APS levels are they employed.
- (4) Does ARPANSAs lease its own premises; if so, what is the annual cost of this lease.

2693 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Education, Science and Training—

- (1) (a) How many personnel are employed within the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO); and (b) at what Australian Public Services (APS) levels are they employed.
- (2) (a) How many personnel are employed in the Safety and Radiation Science Unit of ANSTO; and (b) at what APS levels are they employed.

- (3) Does this unit have the capability to respond to an accident involving radiological material at an Australian nuclear facility.
- (4) Would this capability be the same if there was a major radiological accident outside an Australian nuclear facility.

2694 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) (a) How many full-time personnel are employed within the Office of Transport Security of the department; and (b) at what Australian Public Service (APS) levels are they employed.
- (2) (a) How many part-time personnel are employed within the same office; and (b) at what APS levels are they employed.
- (3) Which of the aviation security measures announced in December 2003 have been implemented.
- (4) (a) Has monitoring and auditing of the new measures increased; and (b) how much will this cost.
- (5) How much will the aviation security measures cost.

2695 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) (a) How will the Government meet the new International Maritime Organisation standards for security at seaports; and (b) what will this cost.
- (2) Have any measures already been implemented; if so, what has been the cost to date.
- (3) What is the predicted future cost of such measures.

2696 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) For each financial year since 1996-97 and for the 2003-04 financial year to date: (a) how many senior executive service (SES) officers were employed in the department; (b) what were the base and top wages (including performance pay) of Australian Public Service officer levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 or equivalent employed in the department; (c) how many staff had mobile phones issued by the department; (d) what was the cost to the department of mobile phones issued to departmental officers; and (e)(i) how many SES officers were issued with motor vehicles, (ii) what was the cost of these vehicles, and (iii) what was the cost of fuel and other operating expenses for these vehicles.
- (2) For each financial year since 2000-01 and for the 2003-04 to date, how many management retreats or training programs attended by departmental officers were conducted by the department.
- (3) How many of these management retreats or training programs were held off site.
- (4) In each case of an off-site management retreat or training program: (a) where was the event held; (b) what was the cost of accommodation; (c) what was the cost of food; (d) what was the cost of alcohol; and (e) what was the cost of transport.

2697 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—For each financial year since 1996-97 and for the 2003-04 financial year to date:

- (1) (a) How many overseas trips were taken by departmental officers; and (b) for each trip: (i) what was the cost, (ii) what was the cost of accommodation, allowances and airfares, and (iii) what was the destination.
- (2) How many domestic trips were taken by departmental officers.
- (3) What was the cost of domestic travel undertaken by officers of the department.
- (4) (a) How many overseas trips were taken by ministerial staff; and (b) for each trip: (i) what was the cost, (ii) was the cost of accommodation, allowances and airfares, and (iii) what was the destination.

2698 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) For each financial year since 1996-97 and for the 2003-04 financial year to date, how much did the department spend on advertising.
- (2) Did any of the above advertising programs contain material that provided a breakdown by electorate of spending linked with programs administered by the department; if so: (a) how many of the above advertising programs contained a breakdown by electorate of spending; and (b) for each financial year since 1996-97, what was the cost of advertising that contained this information.

2699 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) For each financial year since 1996-97 and for the 2003-04 financial year to date: (a) what was the cost of consultants engaged by the department; and (b) how many of these consultancies were engaged to conduct surveys of community attitudes to departmental programs
- (2) For each consultancy: (a) what was the cost; and (b) who was the consultant.
- (3) Were any of the surveys in (1)(b) released publicly; if so, in each case, when was the material released; if not, in each case, what was the basis for not releasing the material publicly.

2700 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for Defence—

- (1) Has the department or any of its agencies acquired land in the vicinity of Shoalwater Bay, Queensland in the past 12 months; if so: (a) how much land was acquired; and (b) for what purpose.
- (2) Has there been any communication between the governments of the United States of America (US) and Australia about the possibility of establishing a US base at Shoalwater Bay.
- (3) Has there been any consideration given to expanding or changing the use of the existing facilities at Shoalwater Bay; if so, what proposals have been considered or are under consideration.

2701 **Senator Ludwig:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—

- (1) (a) Which countries have been declared under subsection 198A(3) of the *Migration Act 1958*; and (b) when were these declarations made.
- (2) Have any declarations ever been revoked; if so, which declarations and when.

- (3) (a) What are the relevant effective procedures referred to in paragraph 198A(3)(i) of the Act; (b) who makes the decision that these procedures are effective; (c) on what evidence is that decision based; and (d) have any declarations ever been refused because a country did not have effective procedures.
- (4) (a) What is the relevant protection referred to in paragraphs 198A(3)(ii) and 198A(3)(iii) of the Act; (b) who makes the decision that this protection is effective; (c) on what evidence is that decision based; and (d) have any declarations ever been refused because a country did not provide sufficient protection.
- (5) (a) What are the relevant human rights standards referred to in paragraph 198A(3)(iv) of the Act; (b) who makes the decision that these standards have been met; (c) on what evidence is that decision based; and (d) have any declarations ever been refused because a country did not meet the relevant human rights standards.

Notice given 16 March 2004

2702 **Senator Mackay:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) With reference to the advice provided by the Special Broadcasting Service Corporation (SBS) at the 2003-04 additional estimates hearing of the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee on 16 February 2004 (*Hansard* transcript, pp 55-56), how many hours of programming did SBS broadcast in languages other than English in 2002 and 2003.
- (2) Excluding the program *World Watch*, how many hours of programming in 2002 and 2003 were broadcast in languages other than English.
- (3) How many of these hours were broadcast in prime time.
- (4) Of the total number of hours of programming in languages other than English, how many hours were subtitled.
- (5) How many hours of subtitled programming were produced by the subtitling department in 2002 and 2003.
- (6) How does SBS define what constitutes a broadcast in languages other than English.

2703 **Senator Kirk:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—With reference to the departmental document ‘Guidelines on gender issues for decision makers’ (1996):

- (1) Why was it decided to update the guidelines in 2001.
- (2) Can a copy or draft version of the 2001 update be provided.
- (3) Why was this updated version never released.
- (4) Why are the guidelines currently under review.
- (5) (a) What guidelines are currently used by staff; and (b) when did they come into use.
- (6) Can a copy of the current guidelines be provided.
- (7) Can a copy of the latest draft of the guidelines be provided.
- (8) When will a final version of the latest draft be released.
- (9) When will staff start to use the updated guidelines.

2704 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister for Defence—

- (1) Which Western Australian government departments and local government authorities are currently engaged with the department to identify potential issues affecting possible sites for a new Army training area in Western Australia to replace the area the Army is currently using near Lancelin.
- (2) (a) Who are the members of the Department of Defence/Western Australian Government working group; and (b) how long has it been in existence.
- (3) What is the role of Mr Mark South, of the Wheatbelt Development Commission, in the choice and assessment of potential sites.
- (4) Can a copy of the Stage 1 report regarding this process, which was provided to the Minister's office in December 2003, be provided.
- (5) Can details be provided of the locations of the six areas in Western Australia that are currently being assessed in relation to their suitability for a new Army training area.

Notice given 18 March 2004

Senator Allison: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 2705-2706)—With reference to the study by Dr Sheila Crewther and Dr Patricia Kiely of the Latrobe University's School of Psychological Science, which indicates that one-quarter of Australian children have some form of vision problem and two-thirds of vision problems go undetected, resulting in under-performance in school:

- (1) What action has the Government taken, or what action does it intend to take, to overcome this problem in learning.
- (2) Will the Government promote and/or fund a national program of testing for short-sightedness, long-sightedness and focusing muscle coordination problems.

2705 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing

2706 Minister representing the Minister for Education, Science and Training

2707 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the Minister's rejection of the application by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council for protection under section 9 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* of an area in Tasmania to be traversed by the Greenham Bicentennial Cattle Drive:

- (1) (a) What was the Minister's reason for rejecting the application; and (b) can a copy of any information used to support that decision be provided.
- (2) What was the exact route assessed by the Minister.

Notice given 19 March 2004

2708 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to action the Government has taken in relation to the Qantas subsidiary company Jetstar, and its impact on Tasmania:

- (1) Since 1 October 2003:
 - (a) what meetings have occurred and what correspondence has there been between the Minister and representatives of Qantas and Jetstar regarding how the proposed services will affect the Tasmanian business community, including in relation to: (i) connecting flights, (ii) the timing of Jetstar services, and (iii) the cancellation of the

early morning Qantas flight to Melbourne from Launceston and the evening return flight to Launceston;

- (b) (i) who initiated the meetings, (ii) when were these held, and (iii) who attended;
 - (c) (i) who initiated the correspondence, (ii) when was it dated, and (iii) which parties corresponded;
 - (d) what were the outcomes of the meetings and correspondence; and
 - (e) can copies be provided of the records of the meetings and the correspondence between the Minister and Qantas and Jetstar representatives; if not, why not.
- (2) Since 1 October 2003:
- (a) what meetings have occurred and what correspondence has there been between the Minister and Tasmanian Liberal senators regarding Jetstar;
 - (b) (i) who initiated the meetings, (ii) when were these held, and (iii) who attended;
 - (c) (i) who initiated the correspondence, (ii) when was it dated, and (iii) which parties corresponded;
 - (d) what were the outcomes of the meetings and correspondence; and
 - (e) can copies be provided of the records of the meetings and the correspondence between the Minister and Tasmanian Liberal senators; if not, why not.
- (3) Since 1 October 2003:
- (a) what meetings have occurred and what correspondence has there been between the Minister and Qantas and Jetstar staff regarding potential difficulties faced by disabled or elderly passengers flying between Tasmania and the mainland who have to re-check their luggage for connecting flights;
 - (b) (i) who initiated the meetings, (ii) when were these held, and (iii) who attended;
 - (c) (i) who initiated the correspondence, (ii) when was it dated, and (iii) which parties corresponded;
 - (d) what were the outcomes of the meetings and correspondence; and
 - (e) can copies be provided of the records of the meetings and the correspondence between the Minister and Qantas and Jetstar staff; if not, why not.
- (4) (a) Which Qantas routes, if any, are currently subsidised by the Commonwealth; and (b) for each financial year since 2001-02 and for the 2003-04 financial year to date, what are the subsidy expenditure details for each route.
- (5) Will Jetstar also receive Commonwealth subsidies on some routes; if so, for the remainder of the 2003-04 financial and for the next two financial years, what are the projected subsidies for each Jetstar route.

2709 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Small Business and Tourism—With reference to action the Government has taken in relation to the Qantas subsidiary company Jetstar, and its impact on Tasmania:

- (1) Since 1 October 2003:
 - (a) what meetings have occurred and what correspondence has there been between the Minister and representatives of Qantas and Jetstar regarding how the proposed services will affect the Tasmanian

business community, including in relation to: (i) connecting flights, (ii) the timing of Jetstar services, and (iii) the cancellation of the early morning Qantas flight to Melbourne from Launceston and the evening return flight to Launceston;

- (b) (i) who initiated the meetings, (ii) when were these held, and (iii) who attended;
 - (c) (i) who initiated the correspondence, (ii) when was it dated, and (iii) which parties corresponded;
 - (d) what were the outcomes of the meetings and correspondence; and
 - (e) can copies be provided of the records of the meetings and the correspondence between the Minister and Qantas and Jetstar representatives; if not, why not.
- (2) Since 1 October 2003:
- (a) what meetings have occurred and what correspondence has there been between the Minister and Tasmanian Liberal senators regarding Jetstar;
 - (b) (i) who initiated the meetings, (ii) when were these held, and (iii) who attended;
 - (c) (i) who initiated the correspondence, (ii) when was it dated, and (iii) which parties corresponded;
 - (d) what were the outcomes of the meetings and correspondence; and
 - (e) can copies be provided of the records of the meetings and the correspondence between the Minister and Tasmanian Liberal senators; if not, why not.
- (3) Since 1 October 2003:
- (a) what meetings have occurred and what correspondence has there been between the Minister and Qantas and Jetstar staff regarding potential difficulties faced by disabled or elderly passengers flying between Tasmania and the mainland who have to re-check their luggage for connecting flights;
 - (b) (i) who initiated the meetings, (ii) when were these held, and (iii) who attended;
 - (c) (i) who initiated the correspondence, (ii) when was it dated, and (iii) which parties corresponded;
 - (d) what were the outcomes of the meetings and correspondence; and
 - (e) can copies be provided of the records of the meetings and the correspondence between the Minister and Qantas and Jetstar staff; if not, why not.

Notice given 22 March 2004

2710 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—

- (1) For the 2002-03 financial year, what were the base and top level salaries of Australian Public Service (APS) level 1-6 officers and equivalent staff employed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission.
- (2) For the 2003-04 financial year to date, what are the base and top level salaries of APS level 1-6 officers and equivalent staff employed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS).
- (3) How many ATSIS staff have had mobile phones issued by ATSIS and what has been the cost for the 2003-04 financial year to date.

- (4) How many senior AT SIS officers have been supplied with motor vehicles in the 2003-04 financial year and what has been the cost to date.
- (5) How many management retreats or training programs have AT SIS staff attended in the 2003-04 financial year to date.
- (6) How many of these management retreats or training programs have been held off-site.
- (7) In the case of each off-site management retreat or training program:
(a) where was the event held; (b) what was the cost of: (i) accommodation, (ii) food, (iii) alcohol, (iv) transport; and (c) what other costs were incurred.
- (8) (a) How many official overseas trips have AT SIS staff undertaken in the 2003-04 financial year to date; and (b) for each trip: (i) what was the destination, (ii) what was its purpose, and (iii) what was the cost, including a breakdown of accommodation, travel allowances, airfares and other costs.
- (9) (a) How many official domestic trips have been undertaken by AT SIS staff in the 2003-04 financial year to date; and (b) what was the cost of this domestic travel.
- (10) How much has AT SIS spent on consultancy services in the 2003-04 financial year to date.

2711 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—

- (1) How many ongoing staff are employed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC).
- (2) How many senior executive officers are employed by ATSIC.
- (3) How many staff are engaged by ATSIC on fixed-term or fixed-task contracts.
- (4) How many ongoing staff are employed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS).
- (5) How many senior executive officers are employed by ATSIS.
- (6) How many staff are engaged by ATSIS on fixed-term or fixed-task contracts.

2712 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—Was the Minister aware that smoking was apparently permitted in the stands at the 2004 Australian Grand Prix, despite the fact that stadiums are now mostly smoke free public spaces: if so, was smoking permitted in the stands at this event as a result of an arrangement with the Federal Government.

2713 **Senator Collins:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations—For each month in 2003 and in 2004 to date, how many Australian workplace agreements were approved in each state and territory.

2714 **Senator Collins:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations—

- (1) How much funding was provided by the department for the Restaurant and Catering Industry Action Agenda.
- (2) (a) What proportion of the action agenda's funding was provided by the department; (b) who provided the remainder; and (c) how much did each contributor provide.
- (3) Were any conditions or criteria attached to this funding; if so, what are they.

- (4) How was the action agenda administered and by whom.
- (5) What were the program criteria or aims of the action agenda.
- (6) Was a report provided to the Government about the outcomes of the action agenda and is this report publicly available; if so, from where can a copy be obtained or accessed.
- (7) How many people, including attendees to industry forums, participated in the action agenda.

2715 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—

- (1) Why has Ms Leila Khalipour, who is currently held in the Baxter Detention Centre with her husband and 8-month old daughter, been denied permission to attend a playgroup with her child.
- (2) Is the Government aware that there are no age-appropriate playmates and no appropriate stimulation provided for this infant at the Baxter Detention Centre.

Senator Allison: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 2716-2717)—

- (1) Is the Government aware that more than 25 000 new off-road diesel engines that emit up to 65 times the level of particulate matter and 10 times the nitrogen oxides permitted under the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* for on-road vehicles are sold in Australia each year.
- (2) Why is it that, unlike Europe and North America, Australia is yet to regulate emission standards for off-road engines.
- (3) What work, if any, has been done to assess the impact of off-road vehicle emissions, particularly in metropolitan areas.
- (4) When does the Government intend to introduce vehicle emission regulation for off-road vehicles.

2716 Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services

2717 Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

2718 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Education, Science and Training—

- (1) For each of the years 1996 to 2004, and for each state and territory, how many children were or will be enrolled in: (a) public schools; (b) independent schools (i.e. schools other than Catholic systemic schools); and (c) Catholic systemic schools.
- (2) For each of the years 2001 to 2004, what was the Average Government School Recurrent Cost (AGSRC).
- (3) With reference to the table, 'General Recurrent Funding Increases' in the Minister's media release 'Learning together: Achievement through choice and opportunity' (dated 11 March 2004, Min 639/04): (a) what projections were used for each of the years 2005 to 2008 for the numbers of children who will be enrolled in: (i) public schools, (ii) independent schools (i.e. schools other than Catholic systemic schools), and (iii) Catholic systemic schools; and (b) can these figures be provided for each state and territory.
- (4) With reference to the table mentioned in (3), what are the 'related effects' and how much does each effect contribute to the increases in funding for the period 2005 to 2008 over that provided in the period 2001 to 2004 in

relation to: (a) public schools; (b) independent schools (i.e. schools other than Catholic systemic schools); and (c) Catholic systemic schools.

- (5) Can a table be provided indicating the following data for each independent school in Australia:
- (a) the school number;
 - (b) the name of the school;
 - (c) the postcode of the school;
 - (d) the state in which the school operates;
 - (e) the school's educational resource index (ERI) category, if available;
 - (f) the actual socio-economic status (SES) score;
 - (g) the funding SES score (i.e. the SES score at which the school is funded, which might be a previous, higher score);
 - (h) the percentage of AGSRC;
 - (i) the funding basis (funding maintained, SES or funding guaranteed, i.e. funded at a previous higher SES score);
 - (j) the number of primary students in 2002 and 2003;
 - (k) the actual or projected number of primary students in 2004;
 - (l) the projected number of primary students 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008;
 - (m) the number of secondary students in 2002 and 2003;
 - (n) the actual or projected number of secondary students in 2004;
 - (o) the projected number of secondary students 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008;
 - (p) the primary per capita funding for 2003;
 - (q) the actual or projected primary per capita funding for 2004;
 - (r) the projected primary per capita funding for 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008;
 - (s) the secondary per capita funding for 2003;
 - (t) the actual or projected secondary per capita funding for 2004; and
 - (u) the projected secondary per capita funding for 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.
- (6) Can a table also be provided of the same data as in (5) for all Catholic systemic schools in Australia.
- (7) For each independent school in Australia, the funding for which is maintained or which is not to be funded at its new SES level, can a table be provided with the following data:
- (a) the school number;
 - (b) the name of the school;
 - (c) the postcode of the school;
 - (d) the state in which the school operates;
 - (e) the school's ERI category, if available;
 - (f) the school's year 2001 SES score;
 - (g) the school's new SES score;
 - (h) the school's actual per capita funding in 2001; and
 - (i) the school's actual per capita funding in 2002.

2719 **Senator Lees:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the proposed CSR/Readymix Ltd. Donnybrook sand mine (EPBC No. 2001/329):

- (1) Is the Minister concerned that the proposed sand mine will be situated in a wetlands area, close to Pumicestone Passage, which is at the northern end of Moreton Bay, and in an area which, in recent reports on the health of Moreton Bay, has been shown to be significantly polluted.
- (2) Does the Minister agree that the proposed sand mine is likely to cause large, long-term, irreversible changes in the hydrology of the site.
- (3) How does the Minister intend to fulfil his ministerial responsibility for this ecologically-sensitive site.
- (4) Is the Minister aware that the proposed sand mine is likely to cause oxidation of the substantial amounts of pyrite forming potential acid sulfate soils on the site, mobilising heavy metals including aluminium, manganese, copper, iron and arsenic, these elements then forming a contaminant plume from the sand mine that may affect the adjacent Ramsar wetland.
- (5) Is the Minister aware that the geo-technical instability of the proposed flood spillway, which is constructed of dredge pond fines across the site following sand extraction, and the pond bund walls built upon that spillway, may lead to failure during tidal surge and/or flood events.
- (6) Is the Minister aware that any collapse of the pond bund walls would allow large amounts of the fine clay sediment and other contaminants to be deposited into the Ramsar wetland, exacerbating waterway turbidity and reducing seagrass bed areas.
- (7) Given the Minister's special responsibility for Ramsar sites, is the Minister concerned that the effects described in parts (4), (5) and (6) will affect an important Ramsar wetland.
- (8) How will the Minister fulfil his responsibility as the Minister responsible for Ramsar sites with respect to the possible destruction of important natural features of this site.

2720 **Senator Lees:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the proposed CSR/Readymix Ltd. Donnybrook sand mine (EPBC No. 2001/329):

- (1) Is the Minister aware of recent outbreaks of highly toxic *Lyngbya majuscula* (*Oscillatoriaceae*) on Pumicestone Passage seagrass beds.
- (2) Is the Minister aware that the Caboolture Shire Council has erected 'no swimming' signs on local beaches, and removed to the shire's secure dump site approximately 2 300 tons of *Lyngbya* washed up on beaches in the Ramsar wetland, at a cost of \$300 000, because of the risk to the health of humans and other species.
- (3) Is the Minister aware that bio-available metals, linked with catchment chelating runoff, provide essential elements to promote and sustain outbreaks of *Lyngbya majuscula*, and that the mining process has the potential to produce these metals, thus altering the nature of waterway chemistry and further contaminating the Ramsar wetland.
- (4) Is the Minister aware that the extractive site is located in one of the most productive wader bird and dugong feeding banks within this Ramsar wetland.
- (5) Given the Minister's special responsibility under the Ramsar Convention, what will the Minister do to ensure that there is no further pressure added by the proposed sand mine to the already dangerous level of *Lyngbya* growth.

Notice given 23 March 2004

- *2721 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the answer to question on notice no. 2438 (*Senate Hansard*, 22 March 2004, p. 21560):
- (1) Does the Tasmanian Heritage Council's assurance that the owners 'will not undertake any illegal work' mean that all road construction, logging or other works on the north east peninsula of Recherche Bay would be illegal; if not, what would constitute 'illegal' work.
 - (2) What protection is currently afforded the north east peninsula of Recherche Bay under either Tasmanian or Commonwealth legislation.
- *2722 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Education, Science and Training—With reference to the Government's New Apprenticeships Scheme:
- (1) For the financial years 2000-01 and 2002-03, can a breakdown be provided, by state and electorate, or if electorate details are not available, by state and postcode, of the number of people participating in the scheme.
 - (2) Since 1 July 2001, what action has the Government taken to encourage people from regional communities to participate in the scheme.
 - (3) For the financial years 2001-02 and 2002-03, what was the cost to the Commonwealth of this action.
 - (4) For the financial years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, what is the projected cost to the Commonwealth of proposed Government action to encourage people from regional communities to participate in the scheme.
 - (5) For the financial years 2000-01 and 2002-03, can a breakdown be provided, by state and electorate, or if electorate details are not available, by state and postcode, of the number of Indigenous Australians participating in the scheme.
 - (6) Since 1 July 2001, what action has the Government taken to encourage Indigenous Australians to participate in the scheme.
 - (7) For the financial years 2001-02 and 2002-03, what was the cost to the Commonwealth of this action.
 - (8) For the financial years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, what is the projected cost to the Commonwealth of proposed Government action to encourage Indigenous Australians to participate in the scheme.
- *2723 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs—With reference to Australian citizen Cui Ying Zhang, who was imprisoned in the People's Republic of China:
- (1) Was Cui Ying Zhang at all times accorded her rights to consular access and assistance and other rights; if not, how were these rights denied and why.
 - (2) (a) What action was taken by the Australian Government to remedy any shortcoming in China's actions; and (b) is any further action to be taken; if so, what.
- *2724 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for Defence—
- (1) Are any of the Abrams tanks, the purchase of which was announced by the Minister, of the type which incorporates depleted uranium shielding.
 - (2) Have any of these tanks been used previously in combat situations, particularly in the first Gulf War; if so, how many.

- (3) Have any of these tanks been 'rehabilitated' after being struck and contaminated by friendly fire.
- (4) Have any United States of America soldiers been killed or injured in any of these tanks.

*2725 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—

- (1) For the financial years 2001-02, 2002-03 and for 2003-04 to date: (a) how many visas were issued to international journalists under the Visiting Journalist Program; (b) how many visa applications were refused under the program; and (c) how many visa applications were received under the program.
- (2) For each financial year since 1 July 2001, what was the average processing time for visa applications under the program.
- (3) (a) What service standards apply in relation to the processing time for visa applications under the program; and (b) have these service standards been changed since 1 July 2000; if so, how have they been changed and why.
- (4) For each financial year since 1 July 2001, what has been the standard charge (in Australian dollars) to applicants under the program.
- (5) For the financial years 2001-02, 2002-03 and for 2003-04 to date: (a) how many visas were issued to international journalists for the purpose of attending or reporting on the Melbourne Formula One Grand Prix; (b) what was the average time taken to process visas issued to international journalists for the purpose of attending or reporting on the Grand Prix; (c) how many visa applications were refused to international journalists applying for the purpose of attending or reporting on the Grand Prix; and (d) how many visa applications were received from international journalists applying for the purpose of attending or reporting on the Grand Prix.
- (6) For the financial years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, what is the projected number of applications and approvals under the program.

*2726 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—For each of the financial years 2001-02, 2002-03 and for 2003-04 to date:

- (1) How much did the Commonwealth spend on the Bass Strait Vehicle Equalisation Scheme.
- (2) How much was spent under the scheme for vehicles in the following categories as defined in the Ministerial Directions for the scheme: Passenger vehicle, Motorcycle, Caravan, Bicycle, and Motor home.
- (3) How many vehicles subject to the scheme fell into each of these categories.

*2727 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—For each of the financial years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07:

- (1) What is the projected Commonwealth expenditure on the Bass Strait Vehicle Equalisation Scheme.
- (2) What is the projected Commonwealth expenditure on the scheme in relation to the following categories of vehicles, as defined in the Ministerial Directions for the scheme: Passenger vehicle, Motorcycle, Caravan, Bicycle, and Motor home.

- (3) How many vehicles which will be subject to the scheme are projected to fall into each of these categories.

ORDERS OF THE SENATE

Committees

1 Allocation of departments

Departments and agencies are allocated to the legislative and general purpose standing committees as follows:

Community Affairs

Family and Community Services
Health and Ageing

Economics

Treasury
Industry, Tourism and Resources

Employment, Workplace Relations and Education

Employment and Workplace Relations
Education, Science and Training

Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts

Environment and Heritage
Communications, Information Technology and the Arts

Finance and Public Administration

Parliament
Prime Minister and Cabinet
Finance and Administration

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Foreign Affairs and Trade
Defence (including Veterans' Affairs)

Legal and Constitutional

Attorney-General
Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

Transport and Regional Services
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

(1 May 1996, amended 2 September 1997, 21 October 1997, 11 November 1998, 8 February 2001 and 13 February 2002.)

*2 Corporations and Financial Services—Joint Statutory Committee— Authorisation to meet

That the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services be authorised to hold a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Wednesday, 24 March 2004, from 4 pm, to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into Corporations Amendment Regulations.

(Agreed to 23 March 2004.)

***3 Economics Legislation Committee—Authorisation to meet**

That the Economics Legislation Committee be authorised to hold public meetings during the sittings of the Senate on the following days, from 4 pm:

- (a) on Thursday, 25 March 2004 to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the Taxation Laws (Clearing and Settlement Facility Support) Bill 2003;
- (b) on Monday, 29 March 2004 to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the provisions of the Treasury Legislation Amendment (Professional Standards) Bill 2003; and
- (c) on Thursday, 1 April 2004 to take evidence for the committee's inquiries into the New International Tax Arrangements Bill 2003 and the Tax Laws Amendment (2004 Measures No. 1) Bill 2004.

(Agreed to 23 March 2004.)

4 Estimates hearings

- (1) That estimates hearings by legislation committees for the year 2004 be scheduled as follows:

2003-04 additional estimates:

Monday, 16 February and Tuesday, 17 February and, if required, Friday, 20 February (*Group A*)

Wednesday, 18 February and Thursday, 19 February and, if required, Friday, 20 February (*Group B*)

2004-05 Budget estimates:

Monday, 24 May to Thursday, 27 May and, if required, Friday, 28 May (*Group A*)

Monday, 31 May to Thursday, 3 June and, if required, Friday, 4 June (*Group B*)

Monday, 1 November and Tuesday, 2 November (*supplementary hearings—Group A*)

Wednesday, 3 November and Thursday, 4 November (*supplementary hearings—Group B*).

- (2) That the committees consider the proposed expenditure in accordance with the allocation of departments to committees agreed to by the Senate.
- (3) That committees meet in the following groups:

Group A:

Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts

Finance and Public Administration

Legal and Constitutional

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

Group B:

Community Affairs

Economics

Employment, Workplace Relations and Education

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

- (4) That the committees report to the Senate on the following dates:
 - Wednesday, 24 March 2004 in respect of the 2003-04 additional estimates, and
 - Thursday, 17 June 2004 in respect of the 2004-05 budget estimates.

(Agreed to 3 December 2003.)

***5 Finance and Public Administration References Committee—Authorisation to meet**

That the Finance and Public Administration References Committee be authorised to hold a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Thursday, 25 March 2004, from 4 pm to 6 pm, to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the second year of operation of the Senate order for the production of lists of departmental and agency contracts.

(Agreed to 23 March 2004.)

6 Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Authorisation to meet

That the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade be authorised to hold private meetings otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1) during sittings of the Senate.

(Agreed to 12 November 2002.)

***7 Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee—Authorisation to meet**

That the Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee be authorised to hold a public meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Wednesday, 24 March 2004, from 5.30 pm, to take evidence for the committee's inquiry into the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Amendment Bill 2003.

(Agreed to 23 March 2004.)

8 Privileges—Standing Committee—Adoption of 94th report recommendation

That the Senate authorise the President, if required, to engage counsel as *amicus curiae* if either the action for defamation against Mr David Armstrong or a similar action against Mr William O'Chee is set down for trial.

(Agreed to 4 September 2000.)

Legislation

9 Customs Tariff Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003—Excise Tariff Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2003—Further consideration of the bills

That:

- (1) For the reasons set out in paragraph (3), further consideration of the bills be postponed and be made an order of the day for the next day of sitting after the Government fully complies with the order for the production of documents relating to a proposed excise and production subsidy made on 16 October 2002.
- (2) Senators who have spoken to the motion 'That these bills be now read a second time' may speak again to that motion for up to 20 minutes each when the bill is again called on.
- (3) The reasons referred to in paragraph (1) are as follows:
 - (a) the bills remove the excise exemption for fuel ethanol and impose an excise duty rate equivalent to that applying to petroleum and impose an excise duty on imports of fuel ethanol;
 - (b) on 16 October 2002, the Senate ordered the production of documents related to the imposition of fuel ethanol excise and a production subsidy to be tabled on or before 21 October 2002;

- (c) the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer (Senator Ian Campbell) advised the Senate on 21 October 2002 that the documents, subject to the order, would be provided as soon as possible;
- (d) Senator Ian Campbell advised the Senate on 13 December 2002 that the documents would be tabled out of session on 17 December 2002 and further advised the Senate on 5 February 2003 that the documents would be provided as soon as possible;
- (e) the Senate called on the Government to comply with the order on 11 December 2002, 4 March 2003 and 26 March 2003;
- (f) it has been revealed that documents relating to the order concern, among other matters, a meeting between the Prime Minister (Mr Howard) and Mr Dick Honan, Chairman of Manildra, on 1 August 2002; and
- (g) passage of the bills now would be ill-advised in the absence of full information about the Government's consideration of ethanol policy.

(Agreed to 12 August 2003.)

10 **Senate consideration—Variation**

That the provisions of paragraphs (5), (6) and (8) of standing order 111 not apply to the following bills, allowing them to be considered during this period of sittings:

Australian Sports Drug Agency Amendment Bill 2004
 Customs Tariff Amendment (Paraquat Dichloride) Bill 2004
 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment Bill 2004
 International Transfer of Prisoners Amendment Bill 2004
 Medical Indemnity Amendment Bill 2004
 Medical Indemnity (IBNR Indemnity) Contribution Amendment Bill 2004
 Migration Amendment (Duration of Detention) Bill 2004

(Agreed to 8 March 2004.)

*11 **Senate consideration—Variation**

That the provisions of paragraphs (5), (6) and (8) of standing order 111 not apply to the Textile, Clothing and Footwear Strategic Investment Program Amendment Bill 2004, allowing it to be considered during this period of sittings.

(Agreed to 23 March 2004.)

*12 **Senate consideration—Variation**

That the provisions of paragraphs (5), (6) and (8) of standing order 111 not apply to the following bills, allowing them to be considered during this period of sittings:

Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 2) 2003-2004
 Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2003-2004
 Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2003-2004.

(Agreed to 23 March 2004.)

Meeting of Senate

13 **Meeting of Senate**

That the days of meeting of the Senate for 2004 shall be as follows:

Autumn sittings:

Tuesday, 10 February to Thursday, 12 February

Monday, 1 March to Thursday, 4 March
Monday, 8 March to Thursday, 11 March
Monday, 22 March to Thursday, 25 March
Monday, 29 March to Thursday, 1 April

Budget sittings:

Tuesday, 11 May to Thursday, 13 May

Winter sittings:

Tuesday, 15 June to Thursday, 17 June
Monday, 21 June to Thursday, 24 June

Spring sittings:

Tuesday, 3 August to Thursday, 5 August
Monday, 9 August to Thursday, 12 August
Monday, 30 August to Thursday, 2 September
Monday, 6 September to Thursday, 9 September
Monday, 27 September to Thursday, 30 September
Tuesday, 5 October to Thursday, 7 October
Monday, 25 October to Thursday, 28 October

Summer sittings:

Monday, 22 November to Thursday, 25 November
Monday, 29 November to Thursday, 2 December.

(Agreed to 25 November 2003.)

14 Adjournment debate on Tuesdays—Temporary order

- (1) On the question for the adjournment of the Senate on Tuesday, a senator who has spoken once subject to the time limit of 10 minutes may speak again for not more than 10 minutes if no other senator who has not already spoken once wishes to speak, provided that a senator may by leave speak for not more than 20 minutes on one occasion.
- (2) This order shall have effect till the conclusion of the last sitting day in 2004.

(Agreed to 19 November 2002 upon adoption of recommendations in the Procedure Committee's second report of 2002; readopted and extended 10 February 2004.)

Orders for production of documents

15 Mining—Christmas Island—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table, no later than 4 pm on Tuesday, 25 June 2002, the following documents:

- (a) the current mine lease or leases on Christmas Island held by Phosphate Resource Ltd (PRL), including all conditions;
- (b) the Environment Management Plan for the lease or leases;
- (c) any Environment Australia (EA) documents relating to compliance, oversight and enforcement of the lease or leases and conditions;
- (d) all materials relating to breaches of conditions, including claims, investigations and actions;
- (e) any audits of PRL's rehabilitation program;
- (f) any new mining proposals for Christmas Island;

- (g) a current tenure map of all blocks that have been mined;
- (h) any documents relating to the transfer of any lots to or from PRL;
- (i) any documents relating to the current mine rehabilitation budget for EA on Christmas Island;
- (j) any documents relating to the current status of rehabilitation on lease block 138;
- (k) any documents relating to the payment or non-payment of power bills by PRL;
- (l) any documents relating to alternative locations for the proposed detention centre on Christmas Island;
- (m) any documents containing responses of EA to the detention centre proposal; and
- (n) current funds held for purposes of mine rehabilitation on Christmas Island.

(Agreed to 19 June 2002.)

16 Superannuation system—Order for production of document

That there be laid on the table, on the last sitting day of the winter sittings 2002, the revised costings document, including the correct phasing-in arrangements, of the Australian Labor Party's plan for a fairer superannuation system, prepared by Phil Gallagher (Manager, Retirement and Income Modelling Unit, Treasury) which was sent to the Treasurer's office in the week beginning 20 May 2002 and identified in Mr Gallagher's evidence before the Economics Legislation Committee on 4 June 2002.

(Agreed to 24 June 2002.)

17 Finance—Retirement and Income Modelling—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table, on the last sitting day of the 2002 winter sittings, the modelling, including information on projected spending for payments to individuals, education, health and aged care spending, prepared for the draft Intergenerational Report in early 2002 before budget changes were factored in, prepared by the Retirement and Income Modelling Unit, Treasury and identified in Treasury's evidence before the Economics Legislation Committee on 6 June 2002.

(Agreed to 25 June 2002.)

18 Health—Tobacco—Order for production of document

That the Senate—

- (a) notes the report tabled in the Senate on 6 May 2002 from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) on the performance of its functions under the *Trade Practices Act 1974* (the Act) with regard to tobacco and related matters, as required by the order of the Senate of 24 September 2001;
- (b) notes that the Senate may require the ACCC to provide it with information in accordance with section 29 of the Act;
- (c) requires the ACCC to report, as soon as possible, on the following issues:
 - (i) whether Australian tobacco companies have engaged in misleading or deceptive conduct in their use of the terms 'mild' and 'light', and
 - (ii) whether there has been any misleading, deceptive or unconscionable conduct in breach of the Act by British American Tobacco and/or

Clayton Utz with regard to document destruction for the purpose of withholding information relevant to possible litigation;

- (d) requests the ACCC to engage in consultation with interested parties and stakeholders over the perceived inadequacies in its response to the order of the Senate of 24 September 2001 and requires the ACCC to report on those consultations as soon as possible;
- (e) notes that once the Senate has had the opportunity to consider the ACCC's further reports on the use of the terms 'mild' and 'light', whether there has been misleading, deceptive or unconscionable conduct in relation to document destruction, and the ACCC's consultations, it will consider whether a further report should be sought from the ACCC in response to the order of the Senate of 24 September 2001;
- (f) calls on the Commonwealth Government to pursue the possibility of a Commonwealth/state public liability action against tobacco companies to recover healthcare costs to the Commonwealth and the states caused by the use of tobacco; and
- (g) calls on the Commonwealth to address the issue of who should have access to the more than \$200 million collected in respect of tobacco tax and licence fees by tobacco wholesalers but not passed on to Government (see *Roxborough v. Rothmans*) by introducing legislation to retrospectively recover that amount for the Commonwealth and/or to establish a fund on behalf of Australian consumers and taxpayers, and in either case for the moneys to be used for the purpose of anti-smoking and other public health issues.

(Agreed to 27 June 2002.)

19 Animal Welfare—Cattle—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table, no later than 4 pm on Wednesday, 21 August 2002, the following documents:

- (a) the Livestock Officer's report on the voyage of the *Maysora*, a Jordanian flagged vessel, travelling from Australia on 28 February 2001 carrying live cattle; and
- (b) the Master's reports from the same voyage.

(Agreed to 20 August 2002.)

20 Superannuation Working Group—Order for production of document

That there be laid on the table, on the next day of sitting, the report presented to the Government by the Superannuation Working Group on 28 March 2002.

(Agreed to 28 August 2002.)

21 Health—Assessment reports by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission—Order for production of documents—Variation

That the order of the Senate of 25 March 1999, relating to an order for the production of periodic reports by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on private health insurance, be amended as follows:

Omit "6 months, commencing with the 6 months ending on 31 December 1999", substitute "12 months ending on or after 30 June 2003".

(Agreed to 18 September 2002.)

22 Transport—Ethanol—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table, no later than immediately after motions to take note of answers on Monday, 21 October 2002:

- (a) all documents relating to the meeting between the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Mr Truss) and the Executive Director of the Australian Institute of Petroleum on 21 August 2002, including but not limited to:
- (i) papers prepared for the meeting by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, and/or Mr Truss' office,
 - (ii) any agenda or attendance papers,
 - (iii) any notes made by departmental officers and/or ministerial advisers at the meeting, including but not limited to hand-written notes, and
 - (iv) any papers that document the outcome of the meeting, including but not limited to file notes prepared by departmental officers and/or ministerial advisers;
- (b) all records of communications between:
- Mr JT Honan, Chairman of Manildra and/or other Manildra managers and staff, and
 - the Prime Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Trade, Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Assistant Treasurer, and/or departmental officers and ministerial advisers,
- concerning the Government's consideration of an ethanol excise and production subsidy, including but not limited to correspondence, telephone records and file notes;
- (c) all records of any meetings between:
- Mr JT Honan, Chairman of Manildra and/or other Manildra managers and staff, and
 - the Prime Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Trade, Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Assistant Treasurer, and/or departmental officers and ministerial advisers,
- concerning the Government's consideration of an ethanol excise and production subsidy, including but not limited to hand-written file notes;
- (d) all records of communications between:
- Mr Bob Gordon, Executive Director of the Australian Biofuels Association and/or other Australian Biofuels Association staff, and
 - the Prime Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Trade, Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Assistant Treasurer, and/or departmental officers and ministerial advisers,
- concerning the Government's consideration of an ethanol excise and production subsidy, including but not limited to correspondence, telephone records and file notes;
- (e) all records of any meetings between:
- Mr Bob Gordon, Executive Director of the Australian Biofuels Association and/or other Australian Biofuels Association staff, and
 - the Prime Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Trade, Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, Minister for Agriculture,

Fisheries and Forestry, Assistant Treasurer, and/or departmental officers and ministerial advisers,

concerning the Government's consideration of an ethanol excise and production subsidy, including but not limited to hand-written file notes; and

- (f) all analysis by the Treasury, the Department of Finance, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources and Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry concerning the projected budgetary impact of the decision to impose excise on ethanol and grant a 12-month ethanol production subsidy.

(Agreed to 16 October 2002.)

23 Environment—Queensland—Nathan Dam—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table, no later than 2 pm on 19 November 2002:

- (a) all documents from 2002 relating to any approaches made by Sudaw Developments Ltd (or its agents) to the Government seeking funding or other support for the Nathan Dam on the Fitzroy River in Queensland;
- (b) any documents or comments provided to Environment Australia in response to the referral, Ref. No. 2002/770—Sudaw Developments Ltd—Water management and use—Dawson River—QLD—Nathan Dam, central Queensland;
- (c) any report or document prepared by Environment Australia in response to referral 2002/770; and
- (d) the report, *Literature review and scoping study of the potential downstream impacts of the proposed Nathan Dam on the Dawson River, Fitzroy River and offshore environments*, prepared by the Australian Centre for Tropical Freshwater Research.

(Agreed to 11 November 2002.)

24 Trade—General Agreement on Trade in Services—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Trade, no later than immediately after motions to take note of answers on Monday, 18 November 2002:

- (a) all requests received by the Australian Government for increased access to Australian services markets by other nations, lodged under negotiations, under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS);
- (b) any documents analysing the likely impact of any requests made of Australia in negotiations under GATS; and
- (c) any requests lodged by Australia of other countries under negotiations on GATS.

(Agreed to 14 November 2002.)

25 Environment—Oceans policy—Order for production of document

That there be laid on the table at the end of taking note of answers to questions without notice on Tuesday, 19 November 2002, the 'Review of the Implementation of Oceans Policy: Final report' by TFG International, dated 25 October 2002.

(Agreed to 18 November 2002.)

26 Superannuation—Insurance and Superannuation Commission—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table, in accordance with their respective ministerial responsibilities, by the Minister representing the Treasurer (Senator Minchin) and the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer (Senator Coonan), by 2 December 2002, the following documents:

- (a) the Treasury files, as described in paragraph 10.1.4 of the report to Messrs Corrs Chambers Westgarth from John Palmer, FCA, entitled 'Review of the role played by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority and the Insurance and Superannuation Commission in the collapse of the HIH Group of Companies' and provided as a witness statement to the HIH Royal Commission;
- (b) the files of the Insurance and Superannuation Commission in relation to the application of FAI Insurance Limited for an authority to carry on insurance business following the proclamation of the *Insurance Act 1973* containing the application and all correspondence and documentation relating to the consideration of the application and leading to and including the company's eventual authorisation;
- (c) the files of the Insurance and Superannuation Commission in relation to the application of Fire and All Risks Insurance Company Limited for an authority to carry on insurance business following the proclamation of the *Insurance Act 1973* containing the application and all correspondence and documentation relating to the consideration of the application and leading to and including the company's eventual authorisation;
- (d) the files of the Insurance and Superannuation Commission in relation to the application of Car Owners' Mutual Insurance Company Limited for an authority to carry on insurance business following the proclamation of the *Insurance Act 1973* containing the application and all correspondence and documentation relating to the consideration of the application and leading to and including the company's eventual authorisation; and
- (e) the files of the Insurance and Superannuation Commission in relation to the application of Australian and International Insurance Limited for an authority to carry on insurance business following the proclamation of the *Insurance Act 1973* containing the application and all correspondence and documentation relating to the consideration of the application and leading to and including the company's eventual authorisation.

(Agreed to 19 November 2002.)

27 Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer—Ministerial responsibility—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table, no later than immediately after motions to take note of answers on Thursday, 12 December 2002, all documents relating to the inquiries undertaken by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet into the possible conflict of interest between the ministerial responsibilities of the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer (Senator Coonan) and the commercial activities of Endispute Pty Ltd (including, but not limited to, a copy of the report of those inquiries furnished to the Prime Minister (Mr Howard) and referred to by him during question time in the House of Representatives on Tuesday, 3 December 2002).

(Agreed to 10 December 2002.)

28 Environment—Tasmania—Logging—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table by the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation, no later than noon on Thursday, 12 December 2002, all documents relating to the answers to question on notice no. 404 (Senate *Hansard*, 14 October 2002, p. 5089).

(Agreed to 11 December 2002.)

29 Science and Technology—Genetically-modified food—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs and representing the Prime Minister (Senator Hill), no later than 4 pm on 4 February 2003:

All communications in the period June 2001 to the present between:

- (a) the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade or the Prime Minister's office and Food Standards Australia New Zealand;
- (b) the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade or the Prime Minister's office and the National Farmers Federation;
- (c) the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade or the Prime Minister's office and the Department of Health and Ageing; and
- (d) the Prime Minister's office and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade,

relating to genetically-modified food in the context of the current free trade agreement negotiations with the United States and of the labelling of genetically modified and genetically engineered food, including communications to or from organisations formed or created under the auspices of any of the above agencies, officers of departments.

(Agreed to 12 December 2002.)

30 Environment—National Radioactive Waste Repository—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table, no later than 4 pm on Thursday, 6 February 2003, the submission or submissions made by the Department of Defence to the Environment Impact Assessment for a National Radioactive Waste Repository in South Australia.

(Agreed to 5 February 2003.)

31 Environment—National Radioactive Waste Repository—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table, no later than 4 pm on Monday, 3 March 2003, all documents relating to the records and communications between the Department of Defence and the Department of Education, Science and Training concerning the Government's consideration of a National Radioactive Waste Repository in South Australia.

(Agreed to 5 February 2003.)

32 Environment—National Radioactive Waste Repository—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table, no later than 4 pm on Thursday, 6 March 2003, the written advice provided by the Department of Defence to the Department of Education, Science and Training concerning the defence-related issues in connection with the National Radioactive Waste Repository in South Australia

(Agreed to 5 March 2003.)

33 Immigration—Illegal migration—Order for production of document

That there be laid on the table, no later than 4 pm on Wednesday, 26 March 2003, the Memorandum of Understanding signed on or around 12 March 2003 between the Australian Government and the Islamic Republic of Iran, which includes measures to combat illegal migration.

(Agreed to 25 March 2003.)

34 Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—Review of Test and Evaluation in Defence—Report by the Director of Trials—Order for production of document—Request to Auditor-General

That the Senate adopt the following recommendations of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee in its report on materiel acquisition and management in Defence:

- (a) that the Senate request the Auditor-General to direct that the proposed 2003-04 audit of the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) by the Australian National Audit Office include a cultural audit that will assess:
 - (i) DMO's espoused corporate values and standards and staff compliance with these,
 - (ii) management and staff values, behaviours and competencies measured against the capability requirement,
 - (iii) employee attitudes, morale, beliefs, motivation,
 - (iv) employee understanding of, for example, the DMO's customers, industry partners, strategies, business plans, roles and contributions to the overall mission of Defence,
 - (v) communication processes,
 - (vi) the effectiveness of change management programs, employee commitment to them and the extent of the benefits materialising, and
 - (vii) compliance with health and safety regulations;
- (b) that the Senate request the Auditor-General:
 - (i) to produce, on an annual basis, a report on progress in major defence projects, detailing cost, time and technical performance data for each project,
 - (ii) to model the report on that ordered by the British House of Commons and produced by the United Kingdom Comptroller and Auditor General, and
 - (iii) to include in the report such analysis of performance and emerging trends as will enable the Parliament to have high visibility of all current and pending major projects; and
- (c) that the Senate under standing order 164, order the production, upon its completion, of the report by the Director of Trials of the Review of Test and Evaluation in Defence, and refer the document to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee for examination and report.

(Agreed to 14 May 2003; paragraph (c) report presented, 4 December 2003 and returned to Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee.)

35 Environment—Radioactive waste—National store—Order for production of document

That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Science, no later than 1 pm on 15 May 2003, the document containing the list of potential sites for the location of a national store for intermediate level radioactive

waste that has been prepared by the National Store Advisory Committee, referred to in the media release prepared by the Minister for Science, 'SA Ruled Out', dated 9 May 2003.

(Agreed to 14 May 2003.)

36 Industry—Basslink—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table, no later than 4 pm on Thursday, 15 May 2003, the letters exchanged between the Victorian and Federal Governments since 1 July 2001 concerning the Basslink project, other than those letters relating to the planning process.

(Agreed to 14 May 2003.)

37 Energy Grants (Credits) Scheme—Draft regulations—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table, no later than immediately after motions to take note of answers on Thursday, 19 June 2003:

- (a) draft regulations to be made under the Energy Grants (Credits) Scheme Bill 2003;
- (b) draft regulations to be made under the Energy Grants (Credits) Scheme (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003; and
- (c) records of any meetings at which members of industry or other groups with a potential to be affected by the passage of these bills were permitted to examine the draft regulations referred to above.

(Agreed to 19 June 2003.)

38 Animal Welfare—Live sheep export—Order for production of documents

That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
 - (i) the *Cormo Express* shipment of 57 000 sheep rejected by Saudi Arabia 3 weeks ago, because of suspected scabby mouth, and subsequently rejected by a second unnamed country is now to be offered free to a third unnamed country in the region,
 - (ii) the *Cormo Express* sailed with a shipment of 57 000 sheep in mid-August 2003 but, by 12 September 2003, after around 5 weeks at sea, the number had been reduced by at least 6 per cent,
 - (iii) Saudi Arabia's rejection of Australian shipments because of disease concerns resulted in the cessation of the live sheep trade for a decade from 1991, and trade only resumed in 2000 after Australian exporters agreed to vaccinate all sheep against scabby mouth before shipment,
 - (iv) throughout the period the *Cormo Express* has been at sea, Livecorp spokespeople have continually assured the Australian Government, media and community that the *Cormo Express*' shipment of live sheep would soon find an alternative port,
 - (v) on Wednesday, 10 September 2003, it was reported in the Australian media that *Cormo Express*' shipment of 57 000 were still stranded; a day later Meat and Livestock Australia announced that Australia's live sheep exports were soaring, with reference made to exports to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and Jordan all being on the increase,

- (vi) Tuesday, 9 September 2003, saw the National Livestock Service announcing that the number of sheep slaughtered in Australia's eastern states was in decline due to the huge numbers of sheep euthanased and dead because of the drought,
 - (vii) the Australian Bureau of Statistics export data for the 2002-03 financial year and the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics estimates that the beef, veal, mutton and lamb carcass trade was worth \$4 964 million while the live cattle and sheep trade was worth in the vicinity of \$976 million; and
- (b) demands that the Government:
- (i) provide full details to the Senate by 3 pm on Thursday, 18 September 2003 of the number of mortalities aboard the *Cormo Express*, and identify the second and any subsequent ports approached after the Saudi Arabian rejection of the shipment, and identify the port, if any, prepared to accept the sheep and at what cost, and
 - (ii) enforce minimum welfare standards in the live export trade and increases support for the chilled and frozen meat export trade.

(Agreed to 17 September 2003.)

39 Health—National Drug Research Strategy—Order for production of document

That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing, no later than the next day of sitting, the most recent draft of the National Drug Research Strategy, as prepared by the National Drug Research Committee.

(Agreed to 8 October 2003.)

40 Health—Immunisation—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing, no later than the next day of sitting, the following documents:

- (a) the advice provided by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) in August 2002, as outlined in paragraph (3) of question on notice no. 1750 (Senate *Hansard*, 15 September 2003, p. 14473), relating to the options for vaccination programs ahead of other ATAGI recommendations;
- (b) the submissions received by the National Health and Medical Research Council as part of its public consultation on the draft 8th Australian Immunisation Handbook;
- (c) all documents relating to the government funding, its requirements of and the subsequent performance of the National Consortium for Education in Primary Medical Care Alternative Pathway Program since its inception, including any review documents; and
- (d) the latest report submitted by the Medical Benefit Schedule Attendance Item Restructure Working Group.

(Agreed to 8 October 2003.)

41 Immigration—Management of detention centres—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table by the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, no later than 3 pm on Thursday, 16 October 2003:

- (a) the default notice issued to Australasian Correctional Management under the Government's general agreement contract to manage detention centres; and
- (b) the report prepared for the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs by Knowledge Enterprises in 2001 on management of detention centres.

(Agreed to 13 October 2003.)

42 Finance—Calculation of the IBNR levy—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer, no later than 5 pm on Tuesday, 14 October 2003, all documents held by the Australian Government Actuary relating to its calculations of the Incurred But Not Reported (IBNR) levy following the collapse of the medical defence organisation United Medical Protection, including the formulae used to calculate the estimated unfunded liabilities for IBNR claims.

(Agreed to 13 October 2003.)

43 Animal Welfare—Live sheep export—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table, no later than 2 pm on Wednesday, 15 October 2003, the following documents concerning the voyage of the MV *Cormo Express*:

- (a) the import risk analysis report concerning the return of the sheep stranded aboard the vessel to Australia; and
- (b) the latest Master's report revealing mortality aboard the vessel.

(Agreed to 14 October 2003.)

44 Environment—Sepon Mine—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Trade (Senator Hill), no later than 30 October 2003, documents detailing the results of the independent environmental and social audit of the Sepon Mine project in Laos, conducted by Graham A Brown and Associates and provided to the Export Finance Insurance Corporation, the providers of political risk insurance for this project.

(Agreed to 16 October 2003.)

45 Science and Technology—Assisted reproductive technology—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table by the Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Hill), no later than immediately after motions to take note of answers on 29 October 2003, the following two expert reports prepared for and subsequently issued to members of the Council of Australian Governments for its meeting on 29 August 2003:

- (a) a report that discussed protocols to prevent the creation of embryos for the purposes of scientific research, prepared by the Committee for the Review of Ethical Guidelines for Assisted Reproductive Technology, a subcommittee of the Australian Health Ethics Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC); and

- (b) a report prepared by the NHMRC that considered the adequacy of supply and distribution for research of excess assisted reproductive technology embryos, which would otherwise have been allowed to succumb.

(Agreed to 28 October 2003.)

46 Education—Higher education—Regional impact statement—Order for production of document

That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Education, Science and Training, no later than Wednesday, 29 October 2003, the regional impact statement prepared by the Department of Education Science and Training, in support, explanation and justification of the higher education policy package, referred to at the hearing of the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee on 17 October 2003 (*Hansard*, p. 119).

(Agreed to 28 October 2003.)

47 Finance—Deposit bonds—Order for production of documents

- (1) That the Senate—

- (a) notes:

- (i) the opinion of the Reserve Bank of Australia that deposit bonds are likely to have encouraged the over-development of inner city rental units,
 - (ii) that deposit bonds have been a factor contributing to the current housing boom, and
 - (iii) that deposit bonds are issued by a range of organisations, some of which are not regulated by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority; and

- (b) calls on the Government:

- (i) to review the regulation of deposit bonds and related instruments and to include both the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority and Australian Securities and Investment Commission in the review, and
 - (ii) to develop a regulatory scheme that will protect consumers and take some pressure from the housing boom and that will ensure:
 - (A) issuers of deposit bonds must conduct appropriate checks on the credit worthiness and ability to repay of applicants, and
 - (B) all deposit bond providers are regulated.

- (2) That there be laid on the table, no later than 3.30 pm on 1 December 2003, any documents prepared by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission, the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority and the Department of the Treasury in relation to deposit bonds.

(Agreed to 25 November 2003.)

48 Taxation—First home owners, ‘bracket creep’ and Intergenerational Report—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Treasurer, no later than 3 pm, Thursday, 4 December 2003, any documents prepared by the Department of the Treasury in relation to:

- (a) the operation of the First Home Owner Grant scheme;
- (b) information on the impact of ‘bracket creep’; and

- (c) baseline information used in the preparation of the Intergenerational Report 2002-03 (Budget Paper No. 5).

(Agreed to 1 December 2003.)

49 Health—Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table, by 3 pm on 4 December 2003, the following:

- (a) all correspondence and documents, including e-mails, between the Department of Health and Ageing (the department) and the National Prescribing Service (NPS) and/or the Minister for Health and Ageing and/or the pharmaceutical drug companies Lilly and GlaxoSmithKline concerning the recent Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme listing of Thiazolidinediones (Actos – Pioglitazone, and Avandia – Rosiglitazone) and the role of the NPS in conducting an education campaign about the drugs;
- (b) all correspondence and documents, including e-mails, between the department, the NPS and their new drug working group concerning a departmental request that the NPS should not conduct an education campaign about the Thiazolidinedione group of drugs; and
- (c) reports and/or correspondence from the Australian Adverse Drug Reaction Committee and/or the Therapeutic Goods Administration concerning adverse effects of Pioglitazone and Rosiglitazone directed at health practitioners, the department, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee, and the Minister.

(Agreed to 3 December 2003.)

50 Environment—Sepon mine—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table, by 3 pm on 4 December 2003, those parts of the audit report on the Sepon mine project in Laos referred to by the Minister for Finance and Administration in his statement to the Senate on 25 November 2003 which relate to the environmental and social impacts of the project.

(Agreed to 3 December 2003.)

51 Science and Technology—Assisted reproductive technology—Order for production of documents

That the Senate—

- (a) notes that the Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Hill) has failed to provide documents relating to embryo research and the Council of Australian Governments for more than 3 months; and
- (b) insists that Senator Hill provide the documents before the adjournment of the Senate on Thursday, 12 February 2004.

(Agreed to 10 February 2004.)

Orders for production of documents still current from previous parliaments

Date of order	Subject	Addressed to
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Date of order	Subject	Addressed to
25.10.1995	Administrative decision-making—Effect of international instruments	Minister representing the Attorney-General
13.05.1998	Waterfront reform	Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Development (Senator Alston); Minister representing the Minister for Workplace Relations and Small Business (Senator Alston); and Minister representing the Prime Minister (Senator Hill)
07.03.2000	Environment—Queensland—Tree clearing	Minister for the Environment and Heritage (Senator Hill)
03.04.2000	Aged care—Riverside Nursing Home	Minister representing the Minister for Aged Care
27.06.2000	Tax reform—Petrol pricing	Assistant Treasurer (Senator Kemp)
09.11.2000	Environment—Tasmania	Minister representing the Minister for Sport and Tourism (Senator Minchin)
04.12.2000	Taxation—Opinion polls	Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Hill)
05.03.2001	Taxation	Minister representing the Treasurer (Senator Kemp)
23.05.2001	HIH Insurance	Minister representing the Treasurer (Senator Kemp)
24.05.2001	Workplace relations	Minister representing the Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business
09.08.2001	Foreign Affairs—Japanese fishing boats	Minister representing the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Trade
21.08.2001	Transport—Black Spot Project	Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services
23.08.2001	Environment—Great Barrier Reef—Water quality control	Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Hill)
19.09.2001	Transport—Ansett Australia	Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services
20.09.2001	Transport—Ansett Australia	Minister representing the Prime Minister

CONTINGENT NOTICES OF MOTION

Auditor-General's reports—Consideration

- 1 Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Faulkner)

Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Bartlett)

Senator Brown

Senator Harradine

Senator Harris

Senator Lees

Senator Nettle

To move (contingent on the President presenting a report of the Auditor-General on any day or notifying the Senate that such a report had been presented under standing order 166)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion to take note of the report and any senator speaking to it for not more than 10 minutes, with the total time for the debate not to exceed 60 minutes.

Conduct of business

- 2 **Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Hill):** To move (contingent on the Senate on any day concluding its consideration of any item of business and prior to the Senate proceeding to the consideration of another item of business)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent a minister moving a motion to provide for the consideration of any matter.

- 3 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Faulkner)**

Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Boswell)

Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Bartlett)

Senator Brown

Senator Harradine

Senator Harris

Senator Lees

Senator Nettle

To move (contingent on the Senate on any day concluding its consideration of any item of business and prior to the Senate proceeding to the consideration of another item of business)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion relating to the conduct of the business of the Senate or to provide for the consideration of any other matter.

Government documents

- 4 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Faulkner)**

Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Boswell)

Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Bartlett)

Senator Brown

Senator Harradine

Senator Harris

Senator Lees

Senator Nettle

To move (contingent on the Senate proceeding to the consideration of government documents)—That so much of the standing orders relating to the consideration of government documents be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion relating to the order in which the documents are called on by the President.

Limitation of time

Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Faulkner)
Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Bartlett)
Senator Brown
Senator Harradine
Senator Harris
Senator Lees
Senator Nettle

- 5 To move (contingent on a minister moving a motion that a bill be considered an urgent bill)—That so much of standing order 142 be suspended as would prevent debate taking place on the motion.
- 6 To move (contingent on a minister moving a motion to specify time to be allotted to the consideration of a bill, or any stage of a bill)—That so much of standing order 142 be suspended as would prevent the motion being debated without limitation of time and each senator speaking for the time allotted by standing orders.
- 7 To move (contingent on the chair declaring that the time allotted for the consideration of a bill, or any stage of a bill, has expired)—That so much of standing order 142 be suspended as would prevent further consideration of the bill, or the stage of the bill, without limitation of time or for a specified period.

Matters of urgency

- 8 **Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Hill):** To move (contingent on the moving of a motion to debate a matter of urgency under standing order 75)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent a minister moving an amendment to the motion.
- 9 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Faulkner)**
Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Boswell)
Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Bartlett)
Senator Brown
Senator Harradine
Senator Harris
Senator Lees
Senator Nettle

To move (contingent on the moving of a motion to debate a matter of urgency under standing order 75)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving an amendment to the motion.

Order of business

- 10 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Faulkner)**
Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Boswell)
Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Bartlett)
Senator Brown
Senator Harradine
Senator Harris
Senator Lees

Senator Nettle

To move (contingent on the President proceeding to the placing of business on any day)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion relating to the order of business on the *Notice Paper*.

Statements

11 Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Faulkner)

Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Boswell)

Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Bartlett)

Senator Brown

Senator Harradine

Senator Harris

Senator Lees

Senator Nettle

To move (contingent on any senator being refused leave to make a statement to the Senate)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent that senator making that statement.

Questions without notice

12 Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Faulkner)

Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Boswell)

Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Bartlett)

Senator Brown

Senator Harradine

Senator Harris

Senator Lees

Senator Nettle

To move (contingent on a minister at question time on any day asking that further questions be placed on notice)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving a motion that, at question time on any day, questions may be put to ministers until 28 questions, including supplementary questions, have been asked and answered.

Tabling of documents

13 Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Faulkner)

Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Boswell)

Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Bartlett)

Senator Brown

Senator Harradine

Senator Harris

Senator Lees

Senator Nettle

To move (contingent on any senator being refused leave to table a document in the Senate)—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the senator moving that the document be tabled.



TEMPORARY CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES

Senators Bolkus, Brandis, Chapman, Cherry, Cook, Ferguson, Hutchins, Kirk, Knowles,
Lightfoot, Sandy Macdonald, Marshall, McLucas and Watson

CATEGORIES OF COMMITTEES

Standing Committees

Appropriations and Staffing
House
Library
Privileges
Procedure
Publications
Selection of Bills
Senators' Interests

Legislative Scrutiny Standing Committees

Regulations and Ordinances
Scrutiny of Bills

Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committees

Community Affairs Legislation
Community Affairs References
Economics Legislation
Economics References
Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation
Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References
Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation
Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References
Finance and Public Administration Legislation
Finance and Public Administration References
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References
Legal and Constitutional Legislation
Legal and Constitutional References
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References

Select Committees

A Certain Maritime Incident
Free Trade Agreement—Australia and the United States of America
Medicare
Ministerial Discretion in Migration Matters
Superannuation
Superannuation and Financial Services

Joint Statutory Committees

ASIO, ASIS and DSD

Australian Crime Commission (*replaced the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the National Crime Authority with effect from 1 January 2003*)

Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings

Corporations and Financial Services

National Crime Authority

Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund

Public Accounts and Audit

Public Works

Joint Committees

Electoral Matters

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Migration

National Capital and External Territories

Treaties

N.B. Details appear in the following section, with committees listed in alphabetical order.

COMMITTEES

A Certain Maritime Incident—Select Committee

(*appointed 13 February 2002; terms of appointment varied 13 March 2002; final report tabled 23 October 2002*)

Members

Senator Cook (*Chair*), Senator Brandis (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Bartlett, Collins, Faulkner, Ferguson, Mason and Murphy

Report presented

Report (*tabled 23 October 2002*)

Erratum (*presented to the Deputy President on 25 October 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 11 November 2002*)

Appropriations and Staffing—Standing Committee

Members

The President (*Chairman*), the Leader of the Government in the Senate, the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and Senators Allison, Bolkus, Boswell, Ferris, Heffernan and Ray

Reports presented

36th report—Estimates for the Department of the Senate 2002-03 (*certified by the President on 22 May 2002, pursuant to standing order 166(2); tabled 18 June 2002*)

Annual report for 2001-02 (*tabled 29 August 2002*)

37th report—Administration of parliamentary security (*tabled 18 November 2002*)

38th report—Estimates for the Department of the Senate 2003-04 (*tabled 23 June 2003*)

39th report—Review of aspects of parliamentary administration (*tabled 23 June 2003*)
 Annual report for 2002-03 (*tabled 18 September 2003*)

ASIO, ASIS and DSD—Joint Statutory Committee

Members

Mr Jull (*Chair*), Senators Ferguson, Sandy Macdonald and Ray and Mr Beazley, Mr McArthur and Mr McLeay

Reports presented

Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Bill 2002—Interim report (*presented to the Deputy President on 3 May 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 14 May 2002*)

Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Bill 2002—Advisory report (*tabled 18 June 2002*)

Annual report for 2001-02 (*tabled 2 December 2002*)

Private review of agency security arrangements (*tabled 13 October 2003*)

Intelligence on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (*tabled 1 March 2004*)

Review of the Intelligence Services Amendment Bill 2003 (*tabled 11 March 2004*)

Australian Crime Commission—Joint Statutory Committee

(*replaced the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the National Crime Authority with effect from 1 January 2003*)

Members

Mr Baird (*Chair*), Mr Sercombe (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Denman, Ferris, Greig, Hutchins and McGauran and Mr Dutton, Mr Kerr and Mr CP Thompson

Current inquiries

Recent trends in practices and methods of cybercrime (*adopted 6 March 2003*)

The Australian Crime Commission's response to the emerging trend of trafficking in women for sexual servitude (*adopted 26 June 2003*)

Report presented

Examination of the annual report for 2001-02 of the National Crime Authority (*tabled 30 October 2003*)

Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings—Joint Statutory Committee

Members

The President (*Vice Chairman*), the Speaker (*Chairman*), Senators Ferris and Stephens and Mr Forrest, Mrs Gash, Mr Lindsay, Ms JS McFarlane and Mr Price

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Portfolios

Family and Community Services; Health and Ageing

Members

Senator Knowles (*Chair*), Senator Greig (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Barnett, Denman, Humphries and Hutchins

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Bishop, Boswell, Brown, Buckland, Carr, Chapman, Collins, Coonan, Crossin, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Forshaw, Harradine, Harris, Hogg, Lees, Lightfoot, Ludwig, McGauran, Mackay, McLucas, Moore, Murphy, Nettle, O'Brien, Payne, Tierney, Watson and Webber

Senator Allison for matters relating to the Health and Ageing portfolio

Current inquiry

Truth in Food Labelling Bill 2003 (*referred 29 October 2003; reporting date: 1 April 2004*)

Reports presented

Matters not disposed of at the end of the 39th Parliament (*tabled 14 February 2002*)

Annual reports (No. 1 of 2002) (*tabled 13 March 2002*)

Additional estimates 2001-02, March 2002 (*tabled 13 March 2002*)

Budget estimates 2002-03, June 2002 (*tabled 19 June 2002*)

Provisions of the Research Involving Embryos and Prohibition of Human Cloning Bill 2002 (*presented to the President on 24 October 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 11 November 2002*)

Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (Special Benefit Activity Test) Bill 2002 (*tabled 2 December 2002*)

Additional estimates 2002-03, March 2003 (*tabled 19 March 2003*)

Annual reports (No. 1 of 2003), March 2003 (*tabled 20 March 2003*)

Health Legislation Amendment (Private Health Insurance Reform) Bill 2003 (*tabled 16 June 2003*)

Budget estimates 2003-04, June 2003 (*tabled 19 June 2003*)

Community Affairs References Committee

Members

Senator Hutchins (*Chair*), Senator Knowles (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Humphries, Lees, McLucas and Moore

Substitute member

Senator Murray to replace Senator Lees for the committee's inquiry into children in institutional care

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Bishop, Carr, Chapman, Coonan, Crossin, Denman, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Forshaw, Harradine, Harris, Lightfoot, Ludwig, Mackay, Mason, McGauran, Murphy, Nettle, O'Brien, Payne, Tierney, Watson and Webber

Senator Greig for matters relating to the Family and Community Services portfolio

Senator Allison for matters relating to the Health and Ageing portfolio

Current inquiries

Operation of the social security breaches and penalties system (*referred 16 October 2002*)

Children in institutional care (*referred 4 March 2003; reporting date: 30 April 2004*)

Hepatitis C in Australia (*referred 19 August 2003; reporting date: 17 June 2004*)

Reports presented

Matters not disposed of at the end of the 39th Parliament (*tabled 14 February 2002*)

The patient profession: Time for action—Report on the inquiry into nursing (*tabled 26 June 2002*)

Participation requirements and penalties in the social security system [Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (Australians Working Together and other 2001 Budget Measures) Bill 2002 and related issues] (*tabled 25 September 2002*)

A hand up not a hand out: Renewing the fight against poverty—Report on poverty and financial hardship (*tabled 11 March 2004*) and corrigendum [Balancing the picture on poverty, p. 448] (*tabled 11 March 2004*)

Corporations and Financial Services—Joint Statutory Committee

(formerly the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Securities; name amended 11 March 2002 pursuant to Schedule 1, item 5 of the Financial Services Reform Act 2001)

Members

Senator Chapman (*Chair*), Senator Wong (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Brandis, Conroy and Murray and Mr Byrne, Mr Ciobo, Mr Griffin, Mr Hunt and Mr McArthur

Current inquiries

Australia's insolvency laws (*adopted 14 November 2002*)

Corporate Law Economic Reform Program (Audit Reform and Corporate Disclosure) Bill 2003—exposure draft and relevant related matters (*adopted 8 October 2003*)

The Corporations Amendment Regulations 2003 (comprising regulations made under the Financial Services Reform Amendment Act 2003 and Batch 6 regulations) and the following draft regulations: Corporations Amendment Regulations 2003/04 (Batch 7) and Corporations Amendment Regulations 2004 (Batch 8) (*adopted 5 February 2004*)

Reports presented

Regulations and ASIC policy statements made under the *Financial Services Reform Act 2001* (*tabled 23 October 2003*)

Review of the *Managed Investments Act 1998* (*tabled 12 December 2002*)

Review of the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (*tabled 26 March 2003*)

Corporations Amendment Regulations 2003 (No. 1), Statutory Rules 2003 No. 31 (*tabled 24 June 2003*)

Regulation 7.1.29 in Corporations Amendment Regulations 2003 (No. 3), Statutory Rules 2003 No. 85 (*tabled 26 June 2003*)

Inquiry into the disclosure of commissions on risk products (*tabled 12 August 2003*)

Money matters in the bush: Inquiry into the level of banking and financial services in rural, regional and remote areas of Australia (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Cherry, on 15 January 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 10 February 2004*)

ATM fee structure (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Cherry, on 15 January 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 10 February 2004*)

Economics Legislation Committee

Portfolios

Treasury; Industry, Tourism and Resources

Members

Senator Brandis (*Chair*), Senator Stephens (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Chapman, Murray, Watson and Webber

Substitute members

Senator Allison to replace Senator Murray for matters relating to the Resources portfolio

Senator O'Brien to replace Senator Webber for matters relating to tourism

Senator Ridgeway to replace Senator Murray for the committee's consideration of the provisions of the Treasury Legislation Amendment (Professional Standards) Bill 2003

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Boswell, Brown, Buckland, George Campbell, Carr, Cherry, Conroy, Cook, Coonan, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Forshaw, Harradine, Harris, Kirk, Knowles, Lees, Lightfoot, Ludwig, Lundy, Mackay, Marshall, Mason, McGauran, Murphy, O'Brien, Payne, Ridgeway, Sherry, Stott Despoja, Tchen, Tierney and Wong

Current inquiries

Provisions of the Treasury Legislation Amendment (Professional Standards) Bill 2003 (*referred 11 February 2004; reporting date: 1 April 2004*)

Taxation Laws (Clearing and Settlement Facility Support) Bill 2003 (*referred 3 March 2004; reporting date: 29 March 2004*)

New International Tax Arrangements Bill 2003 (*referred 10 March 2004; reporting date: 12 May 2004*)

Tax Laws Amendment (2004 Measures No. 1) Bill 2004 (*referred 10 March 2004; reporting date: 12 May 2004*)

Reports presented

Commonwealth Inscribed Stock Amendment Bill 2001 (*presented to the Deputy President on 6 December 2001, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2002*)

Additional estimates 2001-02, March 2002 (*tabled 19 March 2002*)

Taxation Laws Amendment (Superannuation) Bill (No. 1) 2002 and Income Tax (Superannuation Payments Withholding Tax) Bill 2002 (*tabled 20 March 2002*)

Annual reports (No. 1 of 2002) (*tabled 21 March 2002*)

Budget estimates 2002-03, June 2002 (*tabled 19 June 2002*)

New Business Tax System (Consolidation) Bill (No. 1) 2002 (*tabled 26 June 2002*)

Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 4) 2002 (*tabled 26 June 2002*)

Diesel Fuel Rebate Scheme Amendment Bill 2002 (*tabled 26 June 2002*)

Space Activities Amendment Bill 2002 (*tabled 27 August 2002*)

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2002) (*tabled 18 September 2002*)

New Business Tax System (Consolidation, Value Shifting, Demergers and Other Measures) Bill 2002 (*presented to the Deputy President on 18 October 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 21 October 2002*)

Excise Tariff Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2002 and Customs Tariff Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2002 (*tabled 22 October 2002*)

New Business Tax System (Consolidation and Other Measures) Bill (No. 1) 2002 (*tabled 18 November 2002*)

Inspector-General of Taxation Bill 2002 (*tabled 3 December 2002*)

Trade Practices Amendment (Liability for Recreational Services) Bill 2002 (*tabled 10 December 2002*)

Financial Sector Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2002 (*tabled 11 December 2002*)

Additional estimates 2002-03, March 2003 (*tabled 19 March 2003*)

Corporations Amendment (Repayment of Directors' Bonuses) Bill 2002 (*tabled 19 March 2003*)

- Annual reports (No. 1 of 2003), March 2003 (*tabled 20 March 2003*)
- Additional estimates 2002-03, March 2003 (*tabled 20 March 2003*)
- Energy Grants (Credits) Scheme Bill 2003 and Energy Grants (Credits) Scheme (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003 (*tabled 24 March 2003*)
- Corporations (Fees) Amendment Bill 2002, Corporations Legislation Amendment Bill 2002 and Corporations (Review Fees) Bill 2002 (*tabled 26 March 2003*)
- Terrorism Insurance Bill 2003 (*tabled 14 May 2003*)
- Designs Bill 2002 and Designs (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2002 (*presented to the President on 28 May 2003, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 June 2003*)
- Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 4) 2003 (*tabled 19 June 2003*)
- Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 8) 2003 (*tabled 19 June 2003*)
- Budget estimates 2003-04, June 2003 (*tabled 23 June 2003*)
- New Business Tax System (Taxation of Financial Arrangements) Bill (No. 1) 2003 (*tabled 13 August 2003*)
- Provisions of the Trade Practices Amendment (Personal Injuries and Death) Bill 2003 (*tabled 20 August 2003*)
- Provisions of the Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 5) 2003 (*tabled 21 August 2003*)
- Provisions of the Financial Services Reform Amendment Bill 2003 (*tabled 21 August 2003*)
- Provisions of the ACIS Administration Amendment Bill 2003 and the Customs Tariff Amendment (ACIS) Bill 2003 (*tabled 10 September 2003*)
- Provisions of the Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 7) 2003 (*tabled 10 September 2003*)
- Annual reports (No. 2 of 2003), September 2003 (*tabled 10 September 2003*)
- Provisions of the Energy Grants (Cleaner Fuels) Scheme Bill 2003 and the Energy Grants (Cleaner Fuels) Scheme (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003 (*tabled 16 October 2003*) and errata (*tabled 24 October 2003*)
- Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Bill 2003 (*tabled 29 October 2003*)
- Provisions of the International Tax Agreements Amendment Bill 2003 (*presented to the President on 3 November 2003, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 24 November 2003*)
- Financial Services Reform Amendment Bill 2003 and certain associated regulations (*tabled 3 December 2003*)
- Provisions of the Taxation Laws Amendment (Superannuation Contributions Splitting) Bill 2003 and associated regulations (*tabled 5 December 2003*)
- Superannuation Safety Amendment Bill 2003 (*presented to the Deputy President on 19 February 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 1 March 2004*)
- Annual reports (No. 1 of 2004), March 2004 (*tabled 10 March 2004*)
- * Provisions of the Greater Sunrise Unitisation Agreement Implementation Bill 2004 and the Customs Tariff Amendment (Greater Sunrise) Bill 2004 (*tabled 23 March 2004*)

Economics References Committee

Members

Senator Stephens (*Chair*), Senator Brandis (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Chapman, Ridgeway, Webber and Wong

Substitute members

Senator Allison to replace Senator Ridgeway for matters relating to the Resources portfolio

Senator Murray to replace Senator Ridgeway for the committee's inquiry into the structure and distributive effects of the Australian taxation system

Senator O'Brien to replace Senator Webber for matters relating to tourism

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Barnett, Boswell, Buckland, George Campbell, Carr, Cherry, Conroy, Coonan, Eggleston, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Forshaw, Harradine, Harris, Kirk, Knowles, Lees, Lightfoot, Ludwig, Mackay, Mason, McGauran, Murphy, Murray, Payne, Sherry, Stott Despoja, Tchen, Tierney and Watson

Current inquiry

The structure and distributive effects of the Australian taxation system (*referred 12 December 2002; reporting date: last sitting day in June 2004*)

Reports presented

Inquiry into mass marketed tax effective schemes and investor protection (*presented to the President on 11 February 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2002*)

Inquiry into the framework for the market supervision of Australia's stock exchanges (*presented to the President on 11 February 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2002*)

A review of public liability and professional indemnity insurance (*tabled 22 October 2002*)

The effectiveness of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* in protecting small business (*tabled 1 March 2004*)

Electoral Matters—Joint Standing Committee

(*appointed 14 February 2002; terms of appointment varied 8 March 2004*)

Members

Mr Georgiou (*Chair*), Mr Danby (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Brandis, Faulkner, Mason, Murray and Ray and Mr Forrest, Mr Melham and Ms Panopoulos

Current inquiry

Electoral funding and disclosure and any amendments to the Commonwealth Electoral Act necessary in relation to political donations (*referred 4 March 2004; reporting date: last sitting day in June 2004*)

Reports presented

The integrity of the electoral roll: Review of ANAO report no. 42 of 2001-02 (*tabled 11 November 2002*)

The 2001 Federal Election: Report of the inquiry into the conduct of the 2001 Federal Election, and matters related thereto (*tabled 23 June 2003*)

Territory representation: Report of the inquiry into increasing the minimum representation for the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory in the House of Representatives (*tabled 1 December 2003*)

Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee

(*formerly the Employment, Workplace Relations, Small Business and Education Legislation Committee; name amended 11 March 2002—see standing order 25*)

Portfolios

Employment and Workplace Relations; Education, Science and Training

Members

Senator Tierney (*Chair*), Senator George Campbell (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Barnett, Carr, Johnston and Stott Despoja

Substitute members

Senator Murray to replace Senator Stott Despoja for matters relating to the Workplace Relations portfolio

Senator Allison to replace Senator Stott Despoja for matters relating to the Training portfolio and the Schools portfolio

Senator Cherry to replace Senator Stott Despoja for matters relating to the Employment portfolio

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Bartlett, Boswell, Brown, Buckland, Chapman, Cherry, Collins, Coonan, Crossin, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Forshaw, Harradine, Harris, Humphries, Hutchins, Knowles, Lees, Lightfoot, Ludwig, Marshall, Mackay, Mason, McGauran, Murphy, Nettle, O'Brien, Payne, Santoro, Sherry, Stephens, Watson and Webber

Current inquiry

Provisions of the Workplace Relations Amendment (Award Simplification) Bill 2002 and on the Workplace Relations Amendment (Better Bargaining) Bill 2003, the Workplace Relations Amendment (Choice in Award Coverage) Bill 2004 and the Workplace Relations Amendment (Simplifying Agreement-making) Bill 2004 (*referred 3 March 2004; reporting date: 17 June 2004*)

Reports presented

Annual reports (No. 1 of 2002) (*tabled 13 March 2002*)

Additional estimates 2001-02, March 2002 (*tabled 13 March 2002*)

Workplace Relations Amendment (Fair Dismissal) Bill 2002, Workplace Relations Amendment (Prohibition of Compulsory Union Fees) Bill 2002, Workplace Relations Amendment (Secret Ballots for Protected Action) Bill 2002, Workplace Relations Amendment (Genuine Bargaining) Bill 2002 and Workplace Relations Amendment (Fair Termination) Bill 2002 (*tabled 15 May 2002*)

Budget estimates 2002-03, June 2002 (*tabled 27 June 2002*)

Higher Education Funding Amendment Bill 2002 (*tabled 22 August 2002*)

Research Agencies Legislation Amendment Bill 2002 (*tabled 29 August 2002*)

Workplace Relations Amendment (Paid Maternity Leave) Bill 2002 (*tabled 18 September 2002*)

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2002) (*tabled 18 September 2002*)

Workplace Relations Amendment (Improved Protection for Victorian Workers) Bill 2002 (*presented to the President on 15 November 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 18 November 2002*)

Additional estimates 2002-03, March 2003 (*tabled 19 March 2003*)

Annual reports (No. 1 of 2003), March 2003 (*tabled 20 March 2003*)

Workplace Relations Amendment (Termination of Employment) Bill 2002 (*tabled 26 March 2003*)

Workplace Relations Amendment (Protecting the Low Paid) Bill 2003—Interim report (*presented to the Deputy President on 2 May 2003, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 13 May 2003*)

Budget estimates 2003-04, June 2003 (*tabled 19 June 2003*)

Workplace Relations Amendment (Protecting the Low Paid) Bill 2003 (*tabled 19 June 2003*)

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2003), September 2003 (*tabled 9 September 2003*)

Workplace Relations Amendment (Compliance with Court and Tribunal Orders) Bill 2003; provisions of the Workplace Relations Amendment (Codifying Contempt Offences) Bill 2003; Workplace Relations Amendment (Improved Remedies for Unprotected Action) Bill 2002 (*tabled 30 October 2003*)

Annual reports (No. 1 of 2004), March 2004 (*tabled 10 March 2004*)

Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee

(formerly the *Employment, Workplace Relations, Small Business and Education References Committee*; name amended 11 March 2002—see standing order 25)

Members

Senator George Campbell (*Chair*), Senator Tierney (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Barnett, Carr, Crossin and Stott Despoja

Substitute members

Senator Murray to replace Senator Stott Despoja for matters relating to the Workplace Relations portfolio

Senator Allison to replace Senator Stott Despoja for matters relating to the Training portfolio and the Schools portfolio

Senator Cherry to replace Senator Stott Despoja for matters relating to the Employment portfolio

Senators Collins and Cook to replace Senators Carr and Crossin, respectively, for the committee's inquiry into the exposure draft of the Building and Construction Industry Improvement Bill 2003 and the provisions of the Building and Construction Industry Improvement Bill 2003 and the Building and Construction Industry Improvement (Consequential and Transitional) Bill 2003

Senator Johnston to replace Senator Barnett for the committee's inquiry into the exposure draft of the Building and Construction Industry Improvement Bill 2003 and the provisions of the Building and Construction Industry Improvement Bill 2003 and the Building and Construction Industry Improvement (Consequential and Transitional) Bill 2003

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Bartlett, Boswell, Brown, Buckland, Chapman, Cherry, Collins, Coonan, Denman, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Forshaw, Harradine, Harris, Humphries, Hutchins, Johnston, Knowles, Lees, Lightfoot, Ludwig, Mackay, Marshall, Mason, McGauran, McLucas, Moore, Murphy, Nettle, O'Brien, Payne, Santoro, Sherry, Stephens, Watson and Webber

Current inquiry

Exposure draft of the Building and Construction Industry Improvement Bill 2003 (*referred 16 October 2003*) and the provisions of the Building and Construction Industry Improvement Bill 2003 and the Building and Construction Industry Improvement (Consequential and Transitional) Bill 2003 (*referred 3 December 2003*; *reporting date: 13 May 2004*)

The progress and future direction of life-long learning (*referred 11 March 2004*; *reporting date: 25 November 2004*)

Indigenous training and employment outcomes (*referred 11 March 2004*; *reporting date: 25 November 2004*)

Student income support (*referred 11 March 2004*; *reporting date: 25 November 2004*)

Reports presented

Education of gifted and talented children (*presented to the President on 2 October 2001, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2002*)

Universities in crisis: Report into the capacity of public university to meet Australia's higher education needs—Addendum (*presented to the President on 8 November 2001, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2002*)

Education of students with disabilities (*tabled 10 December 2002*)

Small business employment (*tabled 6 February 2003*)

Education of students with disabilities—Corrigendum (*tabled 5 March 2003*)

Order for production of documents on university finances (*tabled 15 October 2003*)

Bridging the skills divide (*presented to the Deputy President on 6 November 2003, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 24 November 2003*)

Hacking Australia's future: Threats to institutional autonomy, academic freedom and student choice in Australian higher education (*presented to the President on 7 November 2003, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 24 November 2003*) and corrigenda (*presented to the President on 12 November 2003, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 24 November 2003*)

Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee

Portfolios

Environment and Heritage; Communications, Information Technology and the Arts

Members

Senator Eggleston (*Chair*), Senator Mackay (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Bartlett, Lundy, Santoro and Tchen

Substitute members

Senator Greig to replace Senator Bartlett for matters relating to the Information Technology portfolio

Senator Ridgeway to replace Senator Bartlett for matters relating to the Arts portfolio

Senator Cherry to replace Senator Bartlett for matters relating to the Communications portfolio

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Bolkus, Boswell, Brown, George Campbell, Carr, Chapman, Conroy, Coonan, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Harradine, Harris, Heffernan, Humphries, Knowles, Lees, Lightfoot, McLucas, Mason, McGauran, Moore, Murphy, Nettle, O'Brien, Ray, Watson and Wong

Current inquiry

Kyoto Protocol Ratification Bill 2003 [No. 2] (*referred 26 November 2003; reporting date: 25 March 2004*)

Reports presented

Additional estimates 2001-02, March 2002 (*tabled 13 March 2002*)

Annual reports (No. 1 of 2002) (*tabled 21 March 2002*)

Broadcasting Services Amendment (Media Ownership) Bill 2002 (*presented to the President on 18 June 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 19 June 2002*)

Budget estimates 2002-03, June 2002 (*tabled 19 June 2002*)

New Zealand/Australia committee exchange program: Report of visit to New Zealand, 15 to 17 April 2002 (*tabled 27 August 2002*)

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2002) (*tabled 18 September 2002*)

Telecommunications Competition Bill 2002 (*presented to the Deputy President on 22 November 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 2 December 2002*)

Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Bill 2002—Interim report (*presented to the Deputy President on 28 November 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 2 December 2002*)

Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Bill 2002 (*tabled 2 December 2002*)

Additional estimates 2002-03, March 2003 (*tabled 19 March 2003*)

Annual reports (No. 1 of 2003), March 2003 (*tabled 20 March 2003*)

Budget estimates 2003-04, June 2003 (*tabled 19 June 2003*)

Provisions of the Postal Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2003 (*tabled 19 August 2003*)

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2003), September 2003 (*tabled 9 September 2003*)

Communications Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2003 (*tabled 15 September 2003*)

Provisions of the Telstra (Transition to Full Private Ownership) Bill 2003 (*tabled 27 October 2003*)

Provisions of the Fuel Quality Standards Amendment Bill 2003 (*tabled 28 October 2003*)

Provisions of the Spam Bill 2003 and the Spam (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003 (*tabled 29 October 2003*)

Plastic Bag Levy (Assessment and Collection) Bill 2002 [No. 2] and the Plastic Bag (Minimisation of Usage) Education Fund Bill 2002 [No. 2] (*tabled 26 November 2003*) and corrigendum (*tabled 1 March 2004*)

Annual reports (No. 1 of 2004), March 2004 (*tabled 10 March 2004*)

Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee

Members

Senator Cherry (*Chair*), Senator Tierney (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Lundy, Mackay, Tchen and Wong

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Allison, Bolkus, Boswell, Brown, Buckland, George Campbell, Carr, Chapman, Conroy, Coonan, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Harradine, Harris, Humphries, Knowles, Lees, Mason, McGauran, Moore, Murphy, Nettle, O'Brien, Payne and Watson

Senator Greig for matters relating to the Information Technology portfolio

Senator Ridgeway for matters relating to the Arts portfolio

Senator Wong for the committee's inquiry into the Australian telecommunications network

Current inquiries

Australian telecommunications network (*referred 25 June 2002; reporting date: 31 March 2004*)

Competition in broadband services (*referred 26 June 2003; reporting date: last sitting day in March 2004*)

Regulation, control and management of invasive species (*referred 26 June 2003; reporting date: last sitting day in March 2004*)

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Invasive Species) Bill 2002 (*referred 26 March 2003; order varied 26 June 2003; reporting date: last sitting day in March 2004*)

Reports presented

Matters not disposed of at the end of the 39th Parliament (*tabled 14 February 2002*)
 New Zealand/Australia committee exchange program: Report of visit to New Zealand, 15 to 17 April 2002 (*tabled 27 August 2002*)
 The value of water: Inquiry into Australia's urban water management (*tabled 5 December 2002*)
 Regulating the Ranger, Jabiluka, Beverley and Honeymoon uranium mines (*tabled 14 October 2003*)
 Libraries in the online environment (*tabled 16 October 2003*)

Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

Portfolios

Parliament; Prime Minister and Cabinet; Finance and Administration

Members

Senator Mason (*Chair*), Senator Murray (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Brandis, Faulkner, Forshaw and Heffernan

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Carr, Chapman, Conroy, Coonan, Eggleston, Evans, Ferguson, Ferris, Harradine, Harris, Knowles, Lees, McGauran, Mackay, Marshall, Murphy, O'Brien, Payne, Ray, Ridgeway, Sherry, Tchen, Tierney and Watson

Current inquiry

Portfolio Budget Statements (*referred 21 November 1996; readopted 2 December 1998 and 21 March 2002*)

Reports presented

Additional estimates 2001-02, March 2002 (*tabled 13 March 2002*)
 Matters not disposed of at the end of the 39th Parliament (*tabled 21 March 2002*)
 Annual reports (No. 1 of 2002) (*tabled 21 March 2002*)
 Budget estimates 2002-03, June 2002 (*tabled 19 June 2002*)
 Charter of Political Honesty Bill 2000 [2002], Electoral Amendment (Political Honesty) Bill 2000 [2002], Government Advertising (Objectivity, Fairness and Accountability) Bill 2000 and Auditor of Parliamentary Allowances and Entitlements Bill 2000 [No. 2] (*tabled 29 August 2002*)
 Annual reports (No. 2 of 2002) (*tabled 18 September 2002*)
 Members of Parliament (Life Gold Pass) Bill 2002 (*tabled 19 September 2002*)
 Public Interest Disclosure Bill 2001 [2002] (*tabled 26 September 2002*)
 Additional estimates 2002-03, March 2003 (*tabled 19 March 2003*)
 Annual reports (No. 1 of 2003), March 2003 (*tabled 20 March 2003*)
 Budget estimates 2003-04, June 2003 (*tabled 19 June 2003*)
 Annual reports (No. 2 of 2003), September 2003 (*tabled 9 September 2003*)
 Annual reports (No. 1 of 2004), March 2004 (*tabled 10 March 2004*)

Finance and Public Administration References Committee

Members

Senator Forshaw (*Chair*), Senator Watson (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Heffernan, Ludwig, Moore and Ridgeway

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Brandis, Carr, Chapman, Conroy, Coonan, Crossin, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Harradine, Harris, Knowles, Lees, Lundy, Mackay, Mason, McGauran, Murphy, Murray, O'Brien, Payne, Sherry, Tchen, Tierney and Wong

Current inquiries

Tabling of indexed lists of files of departments and agencies (*referred 21 August 1996 pursuant to the order of 30 May 1996; readopted 1 December 1998 and 21 March 2002*)

Second year of operation of the Senate order for the production of lists of departmental and agency contracts (*ordered 18 June 2003*)

Reports presented

Matters not disposed of at the end of the 39th Parliament (*tabled 21 March 2002*)

Departmental and agency contracts: Report on the first year of operation of the Senate order for the production of lists of departmental and agency contracts (*tabled 12 December 2002*)

A funding matter under the Dairy Regional Assistance Program (*tabled 26 June 2003*)

Recruitment and training in the Australian Public Service (*tabled 18 September 2003*)

Staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (*tabled 16 October 2003*)

Administrative review of veteran and military compensation and income support (*tabled 4 December 2003*)

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee

(*appointed 14 February 2002*)

Members

Senator Ferguson (*Chair*), Mr Brereton (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Bolkus, Cook, Eggleston, Evans, Harradine, Hutchins, Johnston, Sandy Macdonald, Marshall, Payne and Stott Despoja and Mr Baird, Mr Baldwin, Mr Beazley, Mr Bevis, Mr Byrne, Mr Edwards, Mr LDT Ferguson, Mrs Gash, Mr Hawker, Mr Jull, Mr Lindsay, Mrs Moylan, Mr Nairn, Mr Price, Mr Prosser, Mr Scott, Mr Snowdon, Mr Somlyay and Mr CP Thompson

Current inquiries

Watching brief on the war on terrorism (*adopted 15 May 2002*)

United Nations – Australia's role in the UN (*adopted 15 May 2002*)

World Trade Organisation – Australia's role in the WTO (*adopted 15 May 2002*)

Relations with Indonesia (*adopted 22 August 2002*)

Australia's maritime strategy (*adopted 27 August 2002*)

Human rights and good governance education in the Asia-Pacific region (*referred 3 September 2002*)

Review of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) annual report for 2001-02 (*adopted 16 October 2002*)

Review of the Australian Trade Commission (Austrade) annual report for 2001-02 (*adopted 16 October 2002*)

Review of Australia-Indonesia Institute annual report for 2001-02 (*adopted 2 December 2002*)

Australia's defence relations with the United States (*adopted 26 November 2003*)

Reports presented

Review of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Defence annual reports 2000-01 (*tabled 23 September 2002*)

Enterprising Australia: Planning, preparing and profiting from trade and investment—A short report on the proceedings of the inquiry (*tabled 16 October 2002*)

Parliament's watching brief on the war on terrorism—Visit to Australian forces deployed to the international coalition against terrorism (*tabled 21 October 2002*)

Parliament's watching brief on the war on terrorism—Review of Australia's preparedness to manage the consequences of a terrorist attack (*statement made, by way of a report, 2 December 2002*)

Review of Australia's relations with the United Nations (*statement made, by way of a report, 9 December 2002*)

Scrutiny of the World Trade Organisation (*statement made, by way of a report, 9 December 2002*)

Report of the 2003 New Zealand Parliamentary Committee Exchange, 6-11 April 2003 (*tabled 23 June 2003*)

Expanding Australia's trade and investment relationship with the countries of Central Europe (*tabled 15 September 2003*)

Review of the Defence annual report 2001-02 (*tabled 13 October 2003*)

Review of Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio annual reports 2001-2002 (*tabled 13 October 2003*)

Immigration detention centres and the treatment of detainees (*statement made, by way of a report, 13 October 2003*)

Defence Sub-Committee visit to RAAF Williamtown, Darwin establishments, East Timor and RAAF Tindal, 14-17 July 2003 (*tabled 24 November 2003*)

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Portfolios

Foreign Affairs and Trade; Defence (including Veterans' Affairs)

Members

Senator Sandy Macdonald (*Chair*), Senator Cook (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Evans, Ferguson, Payne and Ridgeway

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Bishop, Boswell, Brandis, Carr, Chapman, Conroy, Coonan, Eggleston, Faulkner, Ferris, Forshaw, Harradine, Harris, Hogg, Hutchins, Johnston, Knowles, Lees, Lightfoot, Mackay, Marshall, Mason, McGauran, Murphy, Nettle, Santoro, Stott Despoja, Tchen, Tierney and Watson

Senator Bartlett for matters relating to the Defence and Veterans' Affairs portfolio

Reports presented

Annual reports (No. 1 of 2002) (*tabled 21 March 2002*)

Additional estimates 2001-02, March 2002 (*tabled 21 March 2002*)

Budget estimates 2002-03, June 2002 (*tabled 26 June 2002*)

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2002) (*tabled 18 September 2002*)

Additional estimates 2002-03, March 2003 (*tabled 19 March 2003*)

Annual reports (No. 1 of 2003), March 2003 (*tabled 20 March 2003*)

Budget estimates 2003-04, June 2003 (*tabled 19 June 2003*)

Export Market Development Grants Amendment Bill 2003 (*tabled 24 June 2003*)

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2003), September 2003 (*tabled 9 September 2003*)
 Provisions of the Non-Proliferation Legislation Amendment Bill 2003 (*tabled 11 September 2003*)
 Aspects of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* and the Military Compensation Scheme (*tabled 18 September 2003*)
 Annual reports (No. 1 of 2004), March 2004 (*tabled 10 March 2004*)
 Provisions of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Bill 2003 and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2003 (*tabled 22 March 2004*)

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

Members

Senator Cook (*Chair*), Senator Sandy Macdonald (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Hogg, Johnston, Marshall and Ridgeway

Substitute members

Senator Stott Despoja to replace Senator Ridgeway for the committee's inquiry into the performance of government agencies in the assessment and dissemination of security threats in South East Asia in the period 11 September 2001 to 12 October 2002

Senator Bartlett to replace Senator Ridgeway for the committee's inquiry into current health preparation arrangements for the deployment of Australian Defence Forces overseas

Senator Bishop to replace Senator Marshall for the committee's inquiry into current health preparation arrangements for the deployment of Australian Defence Forces overseas

Senator Bartlett to replace Senator Ridgeway for the committee's inquiry into the effectiveness of the Australian military justice system

Senator Evans to replace Senator Marshall for the committee's inquiry into the effectiveness of the Australian military justice system

Senator Payne to replace Senator Sandy Macdonald for the committee's inquiry into the effectiveness of the Australian military justice system on 28 and 29 April 2004

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Boswell, Brandis, Brown, Carr, Chapman, Collins, Conroy, Coonan, Denman, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Forshaw, Harradine, Harris, Hutchins, Knowles, Lees, Lightfoot, Mackay, Mason, McGauran, Murphy, Nettle, Payne, Santoro, Stott Despoja, Tchen, Tierney and Watson

Senator Kirk for the committee's inquiry into the performance of government agencies in the assessment and dissemination of security threats in South East Asia in the period 11 September 2001 to 12 October 2002

Senator Bartlett for matters relating to the Defence and Veterans' Affairs portfolio

Senator Allison for the committee's inquiry into current health preparation arrangements for the deployment of Australian Defence Forces overseas

Current inquiries

The performance of government agencies in the assessment and dissemination of security threats in South East Asia in the period 11 September 2001 to 12 October 2002 (*referred 24 March 2003; reporting date: 13 May 2004*)

Report by the Director of Trials of the Review of Test and Evaluation in Defence (*referred 14 May 2003 contingent upon the presentation of the document in the Senate; document tabled 4 December 2003*)

Current health preparation arrangements for the deployment of Australian Defence Forces overseas (*referred 19 June 2003; reporting date: 17 June 2004*)

Effectiveness of the Australian military justice system (*referred 30 October 2003; reporting date: 12 May 2004; terms of reference varied 12 February 2004*)

Reports presented

Recruitment and retention of ADF personnel (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Chapman, on 4 October 2001, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2002*)

Materiel acquisition and management in Defence (*tabled 27 March 2003*)

A Pacific engaged: Australia's relations with Papua New Guinea and the island states of the south-west Pacific (*tabled 12 August 2003*)

Voting on trade: The General Agreement on Trade in Services and an Australia-US free trade agreement (*tabled 27 November 2003*)

The (not quite) White Paper: Australia's foreign affairs and trade policy, *Advancing the National Interest* (*tabled 4 December 2003*)

Free Trade Agreement—Australia and the United States of America—Select Committee

(*appointed 11 February 2004; reporting date: 4 June 2004, or on such later date as is determined by the committee*)

Members

Senator Cook (*Chair*), Senator Brandis (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Boswell, Conroy, Ferris, Harris, O'Brien and Ridgeway

House—Standing Committee

Members

The President (*Chair*), the Deputy President, Senators Carr, Colbeck, Crossin, Lightfoot and Stephens

Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee

Portfolios

Attorney-General; Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

Members

Senator Payne (*Chair*), Senator Bolkus (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Greig, Ludwig, Mason and Scullion

Substitute members

Senator Ridgeway to replace Senator Greig for matters relating to the Indigenous Affairs portfolio

Senator O'Brien to replace Senator Ludwig for matters relating to Indigenous affairs

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Bishop, Brandis, Brown, Carr, Chapman, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Harradine, Harris, Humphries, Kirk, Knowles, Lees, Lightfoot, Mackay, McGauran, McLucas, Murphy, Nettle, Ray, Sherry, Stephens, Stott Despoja, Tchen, Tierney and Watson

Senator Bartlett for matters relating to the Immigration and Multicultural Affairs portfolio

Current inquiries

Provisions of the Disability Discrimination Amendment Bill 2003 (*referred 4 December 2003; reporting date: 7 April 2004*)

Provisions of the Telecommunications (Interception) Amendment Bill 2004 (*referred 3 March 2004; reporting date: 30 March 2004*)

Reports presented

Matter not disposed of at the end of the 39th Parliament (*tabled 11 March 2002*)

Annual reports (No. 1 of 2002) (*tabled 21 March 2002*)

Additional estimates 2001-02, March 2002 (*tabled 21 March 2002*)

Proceeds of Crime Bill 2002 and the Proceeds of Crime (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2002—Interim report (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Chapman, on 10 April 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 14 May 2002*)

Criminal Code Amendment (Espionage and Related Offences) Bill 2002—Interim report (*presented to the Deputy President on 26 April 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 14 May 2002*)

Proceeds of Crime Bill 2002 and the Proceeds of Crime (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2002 (*presented to the Deputy President on 26 April 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 14 May 2002*)

Security Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Bill 2002 [No. 2], Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism Bill 2002, Criminal Code Amendment (Suppression of Terrorist Bombings) Bill 2002, Border Security Legislation Amendment Bill 2002 and Telecommunications Interception Legislation Amendment Bill 2002—Interim report (*presented to the Deputy President on 3 May 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 14 May 2002*)

Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Bill 2002—Interim report (*presented to the Deputy President on 3 May 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 14 May 2002*)

Security Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Bill 2002 [No. 2], Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism Bill 2002, Criminal Code Amendment (Suppression of Terrorist Bombings) Bill 2002, Border Security Legislation Amendment Bill 2002 and Telecommunications Interception Legislation Amendment Bill 2002 (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Knowles, on 8 May 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 14 May 2002*)

Criminal Code Amendment (Espionage and Related Offences) Bill 2002 (*presented to the Deputy President on 10 May 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 14 May 2002*)

Family Law Amendment (Child Protection Convention) Bill 2002 (*tabled 15 May 2002*)

Proceeds of Crime Bill 2002 and the Proceeds of Crime (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2002—Erratum (*tabled 16 May 2002*)

Migration Legislation Amendment (Procedural Fairness) Bill 2002—Interim report (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Cook, on 22 May 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 18 June 2002*)

Migration Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2002—Interim report (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Cook, on 22 May 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 18 June 2002*)

Migration Legislation Amendment (Procedural Fairness) Bill 2002 (*presented to the Deputy President on 5 June 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 18 June 2002*)

Migration Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2002 (*presented to the Deputy President on 5 June 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 18 June 2002*)

Australian Protective Service Amendment Bill 2002 (*presented to the Deputy President on 13 June 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 18 June 2002*)

Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Bill 2002 (*tabled 18 June 2002*)

Budget estimates 2002-03, June 2002 (*tabled 25 June 2002*)

Government amendments to the Proceeds of Crime Bill 2002 and the Proceeds of Crime (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2002 (*presented to the President on 28 June 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 19 August 2002*)

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2002) (*tabled 18 September 2002*)

Statutory powers and functions of the Australian Law Reform Commission—Interim report (*tabled 12 December 2002*)

Statutory powers and functions of the Australian Law Reform Commission—Final report (*tabled 20 March 2003*)

Additional estimates 2002-03, March 2003 (*tabled 20 March 2003*)

Customs Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2002—Interim report (*tabled 25 March 2003*)

Customs Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2002 (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Brandis, on 4 April 2003, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 13 May 2003*)

Annual reports (No. 1 of 2003) (*tabled 15 May 2003*)

Human Rights Commission Legislation Bill 2003 (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Brandis, on 29 May 2003, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 June 2003*)

Human Rights Commission Legislation Bill 2003—Erratum (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Collins, on 2 June 2003, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 June 2003*)

Budget estimates 2003-04, June 2003 (*tabled 19 June 2003*)

Provisions of the Migration Legislation Amendment (Sponsorship Measures) Bill 2003 (*tabled 12 August 2003*)

Provisions of the Family Law Amendment Bill 2003 (*tabled 13 August 2003*)

Australian Protective Service Amendment Bill 2003 (*tabled 18 August 2003*)

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2003), September 2003 (*tabled 9 September 2003*)

Provisions of the Age Discrimination Bill 2003 (*tabled 18 September 2003*)

Provisions of the Migration Legislation Amendment (Identification and Authentication) Bill 2003 (*tabled 18 September 2003*)

Proposed government amendments to the Australian Protective Service Amendment Bill 2003 (*tabled 7 October 2003*)

Provisions of the Migration Legislation Amendment (Migration Agents Integrity Measures) Bill 2003 and the Migration Agents Registration Application Charge Amendment Bill 2003 (*tabled 25 November 2003*)

Annual reports (No. 1 of 2004), March 2004 (*tabled 10 March 2004*)

* Australian Federal Police and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2003 [2004] (*tabled 23 March 2004*)

Document presented

Security Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Bill 2002 [No. 2], Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism Bill 2002, Criminal Code Amendment (Suppression of Terrorist Bombings) Bill 2002, Border Security Legislation Amendment Bill 2002 and Telecommunications Interception Legislation Amendment Bill 2002—Additional information (*tabled 27 March 2003*)

Legal and Constitutional References Committee

Members

Senator Bolkus (*Chair*), Senator Payne (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Buckland, Greig, Kirk and Scullion

Substitute members

Senator Ridgeway to replace Senator Greig for matters relating to the Indigenous Affairs portfolio

Senator Stott Despoja to replace Senator Greig for the committee's inquiry into the establishment of an Australian republic with an Australian Head of State

Senator O'Brien to replace Senator Ludwig for matters relating to Indigenous affairs

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Bishop, Brandis, Brown, Carr, Chapman, Crossin, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Harradine, Harris, Humphries, Knowles, Lees, Lightfoot, Ludwig, Mackay, Mason, McGauran, Murphy, Nettle, Sherry, Stott Despoja, Tchen, Tierney and Watson

Senator Bartlett for matters relating to the Immigration and Multicultural Affairs portfolio

Current inquiries

The capacity of current legal aid and access to justice arrangements to meet the community need for legal assistance (*referred 17 June 2003; reporting date: 31 March 2004*)

Establishment of an Australian republic with an Australian Head of State (*referred 26 June 2003*)

The needs of expatriate Australians (*referred 16 October 2003; reporting date: 1 September 2004*)

Reports presented

Matters not disposed of at the end of the 39th Parliament (*tabled 11 March 2002*)

Human Rights (Mandatory Sentencing for Property Offences) Bill 2000 (*tabled 12 March 2002*)

Inquiry into s. 46 and s. 50 of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* (*tabled 14 May 2002*)

Outsourcing of the Australian Customs Service's Information Technology (*tabled 16 May 2002*)

Migration zone excision: An examination of the Migration Legislation Amendment (Further Border Protection Measures) Bill 2002 and related matters (*tabled 21 October 2002*)

Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Bill 2002 and related matters (*tabled 3 December 2002*)

Reconciliation: Off track (*tabled 9 October 2003*)

State Elections (One Vote, One Value) Bill 2001 [2002]—Interim report (*tabled 1 March 2004*)

State Elections (One Vote, One Value) Bill 2001 [2002] (*tabled 3 March 2004*)

Documents presented

Sexuality discrimination—Additional information (*tabled 27 March 2003*)

Library—Standing Committee

Members

The President (*Chair*), Senators Kirk, Ludwig, Scullion, Tchen, Tierney and Wong

Medicare—Select Committee

(*appointed 15 May 2003; terms of appointment varied: 26 June and 21 August 2003; report tabled 30 October 2003; reappointed 25 November 2003*)

Members

Senator McLucas (*Chair*), Senator Knowles (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Allison, Barnett, Forshaw, Humphries, Lees, and Stephens

Reports presented

Medicare – healthcare or welfare? (*tabled 30 October 2003*)

Medicare Plus: the future for Medicare?—Second report (*tabled 11 February 2004*)

Migration—Joint Standing Committee

(*appointed 14 February 2002*)

Members

Ms Gambaro (*Chair*), Senators Bartlett, Eggleston, Kirk and Tchen and Mr LDT Ferguson, Mrs Gash, Mrs Irwin, Mr Ripoll and Mr Randall

Current inquiry

Review of skilled migration (*referred 18 June 2002*)

Report presented

2003 Review of Migration Regulation 4.31B (*presented to the Deputy President on 29 April 2003, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 13 May 2003*)

Ministerial Discretion in Migration Matters—Select Committee

(*appointed 19 June 2003; terms of appointment varied 29 October 2003 and 12 February 2004; reporting date: 31 March 2004*)

Members

Senator Ludwig (*Chair*), Senator Santoro (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Bartlett, Humphries, Johnston, Sherry and Wong

National Capital and External Territories—Joint Standing Committee

(*appointed 14 February 2002*)

Members

Senator Lightfoot (*Chair*), Senator Crossin (*Deputy Chair*), The Deputy President and Chairman of Committees, the Deputy Speaker, Senators Lundy, Scullion and Stott Despoja and Ms Ellis, Mr Neville, Mr Snowdon, Mr CP Thompson and Dr Washer

Reports presented

- Norfolk Island electoral matters (*tabled 26 August 2002*)
Striking the right balance: Draft amendment 39, National Capital Plan (*tabled 21 October 2002*)
Not a town centre: The proposal for pay parking in the Parliamentary Zone (*tabled 13 October 2003*)
Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? Inquiry into governance on Norfolk Island (*tabled 3 December 2003*)
-

National Crime Authority—Joint Statutory Committee

(*replaced by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission with effect from 1 January 2003*)

Reports presented

- Australian Crime Commission Establishment Bill 2002 (*tabled 11 November 2002*)
Examination of the annual report for 2000-01 of the National Crime Authority (*tabled 11 December 2002*)
-

Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund—Joint Statutory Committee

(*term extended until 23 March 2006 in accordance with the Extension of Sunset of Parliamentary Joint Committee on Native Title Act 2004*)

Members

Senator Johnston (*Chair*), Senator McLucas (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Crossin, Lees and Scullion and Mrs Hull, Mrs Ley, Mr McMullan, Mr Secker and Mr Snowdon

Reports presented

- Examination of annual reports in fulfilment of the committee's duties pursuant to s.206(c) of the *Native Title Act 1993*—
2000-01 (*tabled 12 December 2002*)
2001-02 (*tabled 25 June 2003*)
Effectiveness of the National Native Title Tribunal, in fulfilment of the committee's duties pursuant to subparagraph 206(d)(i) of the *Native Title Act 1993* (*tabled 4 December 2003*)
-

Privileges—Standing Committee

Members

Senator Ray (*Chair*), Senators Evans, Johnston, Humphries, Knowles, Payne and Sherry

Current inquiries

- Matters arising from the joint meeting of the Senate and the House of Representatives on 23 October 2003 (*referred 29 October 2003*)
Matters arising from the joint meeting of the Senate and the House of Representatives on 24 October 2003 (*referred 29 October 2003*)

Reports presented

- 102nd report—Counsel to the Senate (*tabled 26 June 2002*)

103rd report—Possible improper influence and penalty on a senator (*tabled 26 June 2002*)

104th report—Possible false or misleading evidence before the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund (*tabled 26 June 2002*)

105th report—Execution of search warrants in senators' offices – Senator Harris (*tabled 26 June 2002*)

106th report—Possible improper interference with a witness before the Senate Select Committee on a Certain Maritime Incident (*tabled 27 August 2002*)

107th report—Parliamentary privilege precedents, procedures and practices in the Australian Senate 1996-2002 (*tabled 27 August 2002*)

108th report—Person referred to in the Senate (Mr John Hyde Page) (*tabled 15 October 2002*)

109th report—Person referred to in the Senate (Mr Tony Kevin) (*tabled 22 October 2002*)

110th report—Persons referred to in the Senate (Dr Geoffrey Vaughan, Dr Peter Jonson, Professor Brian Anderson) (*tabled 10 December 2002*)

111th report—Persons referred to in the Senate (Mr Bob Moses, on behalf of board and management of National Stem Cell Centre) (*tabled 5 February 2003*)

112th report—Possible unauthorised disclosure of report of Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee (*tabled 6 February 2003*)

113th report—Australian Press Council and Committee of Privileges: Exchange of correspondence (*tabled 25 June 2003*)

114th report—Execution of search warrants in senators' offices – Senator Harris: Matters arising from the 105th report of the Committee of Privileges (*tabled 20 August 2003*)

115th report—Persons referred to in the Senate (Board members of Electronic Frontiers Australia Inc.) (*tabled 18 September 2003*)

116th report—Possible improper interference with a witness before the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee (*tabled 2 March 2004*)

Document presented

Advices to the Senate Committee of Privileges from the Clerk of the Senate and Senior Counsel—March 1988 to April 2002 (*tabled 27 August 2002*)

Procedure—Standing Committee

Members

The Deputy President (*Chair*), the President, the Leader of the Government in the Senate, the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and Senators Allison, Ian Campbell, Eggleston, Ferguson, Ludwig and Ray

Current inquiry

Formal motions procedure

Reports presented

First report of 2002—Adjournment debate; Unanswered questions on notice (*tabled 19 June 2002*)

Second report of 2002—Chairs and quorums in committees; Adjournment debate on Tuesdays (*tabled 18 November 2002*)

First report of 2003—Times of meeting on Tuesday; Senators breastfeeding infants; Deadline for receipt of bills; Presentation of the budget; Committee meetings during

adjournment debate; Formal motions (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Sandy Macdonald, on 17 April 2003, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 13 May 2003*)

Second report of 2003—Publication of questions on notice and answers: protection by parliamentary privilege (*tabled 21 August 2003*)

Third report of 2003—Joint meetings to receive addresses by foreign heads of state; Reference of tax expenditures statement to estimates hearings (*tabled 4 December 2003*)

Public Accounts and Audit—Joint Statutory Committee

Members

Mr Charles (*Chairman*), Ms Plibersek (*Vice Chairman*), Senators Lundy, Hogg, Humphries, Murray, Scullion and Watson and Mr Ciobo, Mr Cobb, Mr Georgiou, Ms Grierson, Mr Griffin, Ms CF King, Mr PE King and Mr Somlyay

Current inquiry

Management and integrity of electronic information in the Commonwealth (*referred 23 October 2002*)

Reports presented

Report 388—Review of the accrual budget documentation (*tabled 19 June 2002*)

Report 389—Review of Auditor-General's reports 2000-01: Fourth quarter (*tabled 27 June 2002*)

Report 390—Review of Auditor-General's reports 2001-02: First, second and third quarters (*tabled 29 August 2002*)

Report 391—Review of independent auditing by registered company auditors (*tabled 18 September 2002*)

Report 392—Annual report 2001-02 (*tabled 14 November 2002*)

Report 390—Review of Auditor-General's reports 2001-02: First, second and third quarters—Erratum (*tabled 14 November 2002*)

Report 393—Review of Auditor-General's reports 2001-02: Fourth quarter (*tabled 3 March 2003*)

Report 394—Review of Australia's quarantine function (*tabled 5 March 2003*)

Report 395—Inquiry into the draft Financial Framework Legislation Amendment Bill (*tabled 20 August 2003*)

Report 396—Review of Auditor-General's reports 2002-03: First, second and third quarters (*tabled 8 October 2003*)

Report 397—Annual report 2002-03 (*tabled 26 November 2003*)

Documents presented

Executive minute responses to reports nos 373, 382, 383 and 385 (*tabled 14 November 2002*)

Executive minute responses to reports nos 374, 385, 388 and 389 (*tabled 24 June 2003*)

Public Works—Joint Statutory Committee

Members

Mrs Moylan (*Chairman*), Mr BPJ O'Connor (*Deputy Chairman*), Senators Colbeck, Ferguson and Forshaw and Mr Jenkins, Mr Lindsay, Mr Lloyd and Mr Ripoll

Reports presented

Sixty-fifth annual report, March 2002 (*tabled 15 May 2002*)

Common use infrastructure on Christmas Island (First report of 2002) (*tabled 27 August 2002*)

RAAF Base Williamtown redevelopment stage 1 and facilities for the airborne early warning and control aircraft (Second report of 2002) (*tabled 18 September 2002*)

Sixty-sixth annual report, March 2003 (*tabled 19 March 2003*)

Proposed fit-out of new leased premises for the Bureau of Meteorology, 700 Collins Street, Docklands, Victoria (*tabled 26 March 2003*)

Development of off-base housing for Defence at Adamstown, Newcastle, NSW (*tabled 14 May 2003*)

Fit-out of new leased premises for the Australian Customs Service at Sydney International Terminal, Sydney, NSW (*tabled 19 June 2003*)

Provision of facilities for the Australian Capital Territory Multi User Depot, HMAS *Harman*, ACT (*tabled 25 June 2003*)

Redevelopment of the Australian Institute of Sport, Bruce, Australian Capital Territory (Fifth report of 2003) (*tabled 20 August 2003*)

Provision of facilities for the collocation and re-equipping of the 1st Aviation Regiment at Robertson Barracks, Darwin, NT (Sixth report of 2003) (*tabled 20 August 2003*)

RAAF Base Tindal perimeter security fence, Katherine, Northern Territory (Seventh report of 2003) (*tabled 20 August 2003*)

Construction of a new chancery building for the Australian High Commission, Colombo, Sri Lanka (Eighth report of 2003) (*tabled 10 September 2003*)

Construction of a new chancery, New Delhi, India (Ninth report of 2003) (*tabled 17 September 2003*)

Refurbishment of staff apartments, Australian Embassy complex, Paris, France (Tenth report of 2003) (*tabled 17 September 2003*)

RAAF Base Richmond reinvestment project, Richmond, NSW (Eleventh report of 2003) (*tabled 15 October 2003*)

New main entrance at the Lucas Heights Science and Technology Centre, Lucas Heights, NSW (Twelfth report of 2003) (*tabled 26 November 2003*)

Proposed redevelopment of Radiopharmaceutical Building No. 23 at Lucas Heights, Sydney, NSW (Thirteenth report of 2003) (*tabled 26 November 2003*)

Proposed development of off-base housing for Defence at Queanbeyan, NSW (Fourteenth report of 2003) (*tabled 2 December 2003*)

Proposed respecified Christmas Island immigration centre and processing centre (Fifteenth report of 2003) (*tabled 2 December 2003*)

Proposed community recreation centre on Christmas Island (Sixteenth report of 2003) (*tabled 2 December 2003*)

Sixty-seventh annual report, March 2004 (*tabled 10 March 2004*)

Publications—Standing Committee

Members

Senator Colbeck (*Chair*), Senators Hutchins, Johnston, Kirk, Marshall, Moore and Scullion

Reports presented

1st report (*tabled 21 March 2002*)
 2nd report (*tabled 29 August 2002*)

- 3rd report (tabled 26 September 2002)
 - 4th report (tabled 23 October 2002)
 - 5th report (tabled 14 November 2002)
 - 6th report (tabled 12 December 2002)
 - 7th report (tabled 27 March 2003)
 - 8th report (tabled 15 May 2003)
 - 9th report (tabled 26 June 2003)
 - 10th report (tabled 21 August 2003)
 - 11th report (tabled 18 September 2003)
 - 12th report (tabled 16 October 2003)
 - 13th report (tabled 30 October 2003)
 - 14th report (tabled 4 December 2003)
 - 15th report (tabled 11 March 2004)
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Regulations and Ordinances—Legislative Scrutiny Standing Committee

Members

Senator Tchen (*Chairman*), Senators Bartlett, Marshall, Mason, Moore and Santoro

Current inquiry

Provisions of the Legislative Instruments Bill 2003 and the Legislative Instruments (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003 (*referred 13 August 2003; reporting date: 16 October 2003*)

Reports presented

110th report—Annual report 2000-01 (*tabled 21 March 2002*)

111th report—Legislative Instruments Bill 2003 and Legislative Instruments (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2003 (*tabled 16 October 2003*)

Documents presented

Ministerial correspondence relating to the scrutiny of delegated legislation, March – June 2002 (*tabled 26 June 2002*)

Delegated legislation monitor—Regulations and disallowable instruments tabled in the Senate in 2002, dated February 2003 (*tabled 6 March 2003*)

Ministerial correspondence relating to the scrutiny of delegated legislation, June 2002 to February 2003 (*tabled 6 March 2003*)

Ministerial correspondence relating to the scrutiny of delegated legislation, March to June 2003 (*tabled 20 August 2003*)

Delegated legislation monitor—Regulations and disallowable instruments tabled in the Senate in 2003, dated March 2004 (*tabled 4 March 2004*)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

Portfolios

Transport and Regional Services; Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Members

Senator Heffernan (*Chair*), Senator Buckland (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Cherry, Colbeck, Ferris and O'Brien

Substitute members

Senator McLucas to replace Senator Buckland for the committee's inquiry into the administration of Biosecurity Australia—Revised draft import risk analysis for bananas

Senator Allison to replace Senator Cherry for the committee's consideration of the provisions of the Civil Aviation Legislation Amendment (Mutual Recognition with New Zealand and Other Matters) Bill 2003

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Bishop, Boswell, Brown, Carr, Chapman, Coonan, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Harradine, Harris, Hutchins, Knowles, Lightfoot, Mason, Sandy Macdonald, Mackay, McGauran, McLucas, Murphy, Payne, Ray, Santoro, Stephens, Tchen, Tierney and Watson

Senator Greig for matters relating to the Fisheries portfolio

Senator Lees for matters relating to air safety

Senator Allison for matters relating to the Transport portfolio

Current inquiries

Administration of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (*adopted under standing order 25(2)(b), 22 October 1999; readopted 13 March 2002; reporting date: 5 August 2004*)

Administration of AusSAR in relation to the search for the *Margaret J* (*referred 25 June 2001; readopted 13 March 2002; reporting date: 27 May 2004*)

The administration of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau in relation to the crash of Whyalla Airlines aircraft VH-MZK on 31 May 2000 (*adopted under standing order 25(2)(b), 25 November 2003*)

The administration of Biosecurity Australia—Draft and final import risk analysis for pig meat (*adopted under standing order 25(2)(b), 16 December 2003; amended 2 March 2004*)

The administration of Biosecurity Australia—Revised draft import risk analysis for bananas (*adopted under standing order 25(2)(b), 2 March 2004*)

The administration of Biosecurity Australia—Revised draft import risk analysis for apples (*adopted under standing order 25(2)(b), 2 March 2004*)

Provisions of the Civil Aviation Legislation Amendment (Mutual Recognition with New Zealand and Other Matters) Bill 2003 (*referred 10 March 2004; reporting date: 17 June 2004*)

Customs Tariff Amendment (Paraquat Dichloride) Bill 2004 (*referred 10 March 2004; reporting date: 13 May 2004*)

Reports presented

Matters not disposed of at the end of the 39th Parliament (*tabled 13 March 2002*)

Annual reports (No. 1 of 2002) (*tabled 21 March 2002*)

Additional estimates 2001-02, March 2002 (*tabled 21 March 2002*)

Airports Amendment Bill 2002 (*tabled 16 May 2002*)

Administration by the Department of Transport and Regional Services of Australian Motor Vehicle Standards under the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* and Regulations (*tabled 18 June 2002*)

Budget estimates 2002-03, June 2002 (*tabled 19 June 2002*)

The introduction of quota management controls on Australian beef exports to the United States by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (*tabled 26 June 2002*)

Administration of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority—Interim report (*tabled 27 June 2002*)

Proposed importation of fresh apple fruit from New Zealand—Interim report (*tabled 27 June 2002*)

Administration of AusSAR in relation to the search for the *Margaret J*—Interim report (tabled 27 June 2002)

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2002) (tabled 18 September 2002)

The Australian meat industry consultative structure and quota allocation—Interim report: Allocation of the US beef quota (tabled 24 September 2002)

Egg Industry Service Provision Bill 2002 and Egg Industry Service Provision (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Bill 2002 (tabled 23 October 2002)

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2002 (tabled 12 November 2002)

The Australian meat industry consultative structure and quota allocation—Second report: Existing government advisory structures in the Australian meat industry (tabled 12 December 2002)

Transport Safety Investigation Bill 2002 (tabled 5 February 2003)

Additional estimates 2002-03, March 2003 (tabled 19 March 2003)

Annual reports (No. 1 of 2003), March 2003 (tabled 20 March 2003)

Dairy Industry Service Reform Bill 2003 and Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Amendment (Dairy) Bill 2003 (tabled 27 March 2003)

Wheat Marketing Amendment Bill 2002 (tabled 18 June 2003)

Budget estimates 2003-04, June 2003 (tabled 19 June 2003)

Civil Aviation Amendment Bill 2003 (tabled 24 June 2003)

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2003), September 2003 (tabled 16 September 2003)

Provisions of the Aviation Transport Security Bill 2003 and the Aviation Transport Security (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2003 (tabled 9 October 2003)

Management of the quarantine risks associated with the possible return to Australia of sheep aboard the *MV Corno Express* (tabled 29 October 2003)

Provisions of the Maritime Transport Security Bill 2003 (tabled 27 November 2003)

Draft Aviation Transport Security Regulations 2003 (tabled 2 December 2003)

Australian Wool Innovation Limited: Application and expenditure of funds advanced under Statutory Funding Agreement dated 31 December 2000 (tabled 12 February 2004)

Annual reports (No. 1 of 2004), March 2004 (tabled 10 March 2004)

The proposed importation of fresh apple fruit from New Zealand—Final report (tabled 11 March 2004)

Statement presented

Statement on the progress of the committee's inquiry into the application and expenditure of funds by Australian Wool Innovation Ltd (presented 4 December 2003)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee

Members

Senator Ridgeway (*Chair*), Senator Heffernan (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Buckland, McGauran, O'Brien and Stephens

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Boswell, Brown, Carr, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Crossin, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Harradine, Harris, Hutchins, Knowles, Lees, Lightfoot, Mackay, Mason, Sandy Macdonald, Murphy, Payne, Santoro, Tchen, Tierney and Watson

Senator Greig for matters relating to the Fisheries portfolio
 Senator Allison for matters relating to the Transport portfolio

Current inquiries

Forestry plantations (*referred 27 June 2002; reporting date: 13 May 2004*)

Rural water resource usage (*referred 21 October 2002; reporting date: 24 June 2004*)

Scrutiny of Bills—Legislative Scrutiny Standing Committee

Members

Senator Crossin (*Chairman*), Senator Mason (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Barnett, Johnston, McLucas and Murray

Alert Digests presented

No. 1 of 2002 (*presented to the President on 21 February 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 11 March 2002*)

No. 2 of 2002 (*tabled 13 March 2002*)

No. 3 of 2002 (*tabled 20 March 2002*)

No. 4 of 2002 (*tabled 15 May 2002*)

No. 5 of 2002 (*tabled 19 June 2002*)

No. 6 of 2002 (*tabled 26 June 2002*)

No. 7 of 2002 (*tabled 21 August 2002*)

No. 8 of 2002 (*tabled 28 August 2002*)

No. 9 of 2002 (*tabled 18 September 2002*)

No. 10 of 2002 (*tabled 25 September 2002*)

No. 11 of 2002 (*tabled 16 October 2002*)

No. 12 of 2002 (*tabled 23 October 2002*)

No. 13 of 2002 (*tabled 13 November 2002*)

No. 14 of 2002 (*tabled 19 November 2002*)

No. 15 of 2002 (*tabled 4 December 2002*)

No. 16 of 2002 (*tabled 11 December 2002*)

No. 1 of 2003 (*tabled 5 February 2003*)

No. 2 of 2003 (*tabled 5 March 2003*)

No. 3 of 2003 (*tabled 19 March 2003*)

No. 4 of 2003 (*tabled 26 March 2003*)

No. 5 of 2003 (*tabled 14 June 2003*)

No. 6 of 2003 (*tabled 18 June 2003*)

No. 7 of 2003 (*tabled 25 June 2003*)

No. 8 of 2003 (*tabled 13 August 2003*)

No. 9 of 2003 (*tabled 20 August 2003*)

No. 10 of 2003 (*tabled 10 September 2003*)

No. 11 of 2003 (*tabled 17 September 2003*)

No. 12 of 2003 (*tabled 8 October 2003*)

No. 13 of 2003 (*tabled 29 October 2003*)

No. 14 of 2003 (*presented to the President on 7 November 2003, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 24 November 2003*)

No. 15 of 2003 (*tabled 26 November 2003*)

No. 16 of 2003 (*tabled 3 December 2003*)

No. 1 of 2004 (*tabled 11 February 2004*)

No. 2 of 2004 (*tabled 3 March 2004*)

No. 3 of 2004 (*tabled 10 March 2004*)

Reports presented

No. 1 of 2002 (*presented to the President on 21 February 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 11 March 2002*)

No. 2 of 2002 (*tabled 13 March 2002*)

No. 3 of 2002 (*tabled 20 March 2002*)

Matters not disposed of at the end of the 39th Parliament (*tabled 21 March 2002*)

No. 4 of 2002 (*tabled 15 May 2002*)

No. 5 of 2002 (*tabled 19 June 2002*)

No. 6 of 2002: Application of absolute and strict liability offences in Commonwealth Legislation (*tabled 26 June 2002*)

No. 7 of 2002 (*tabled 26 June 2002*)

Work of the committee during the 39th Parliament, November 1998-October 2001 (*tabled 27 June 2002*)

No. 8 of 2002 (*tabled 21 August 2002*)

No. 9 of 2002 (*tabled 28 August 2002*)

No. 10 of 2002 (*tabled 18 September 2002*)

No. 11 of 2002 (*tabled 25 September 2002*)

No. 12 of 2002 (*tabled 16 October 2002*)

No. 13 of 2002 (*tabled 23 October 2002*)

No. 14 of 2002 (*tabled 13 November 2002*)

No. 15 of 2002 (*tabled 4 December 2002*)

No. 16 of 2002 (*tabled 11 December 2002*)

No. 1 of 2003 (*tabled 5 February 2003*)

No. 2 of 2003 (*tabled 5 March 2003*)

No. 3 of 2003 (*tabled 26 March 2003*)

No. 4 of 2003 (*tabled 14 May 2003*)

No. 5 of 2003 (*tabled 18 June 2003*)

No. 6 of 2003 (*tabled 25 June 2003*)

No. 7 of 2003 (*tabled 13 August 2003*)

No. 8 of 2003 (*tabled 20 August 2003*)

No. 9 of 2003 (*tabled 10 September 2003*)

No. 10 of 2003 (*tabled 17 September 2003*)

No. 11 of 2003 (*tabled 8 October 2003*)

No. 12 of 2003 (*tabled 15 October 2003*)

No. 13 of 2003 (*presented to the President on 7 November 2003, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 24 November 2003*)

No. 14 of 2003 (*tabled 26 November 2003*)

No. 15 of 2003 (*tabled 3 December 2003*)

No. 1 of 2004 (*tabled 11 February 2004*)

No. 2 of 2004 (*tabled 3 March 2004*)

Selection of Bills—Standing Committee

Members

The Government Whip (*Chair*), the Opposition Whip, the Australian Democrats Whip, the National Party of Australia Whip and Senators Buckland, Ian Campbell, Eggleston and Ludwig

Reports presented

- Report no. 1 of 2002 (*presented 13 March 2002*)
- Report no. 2 of 2002 (*presented 20 March 2002*)
- Report no. 3 of 2002 (*presented 15 May 2002*)
- Report no. 4 of 2002 (*presented 19 June 2002*)
- Report no. 5 of 2002 (*presented 26 June 2002*)
- Report no. 6 of 2002 (*presented 21 August 2002*)
- Report no. 7 of 2002 (*presented 28 August 2002*)
- Report no. 8 of 2002 (*presented 18 September 2002*)
- Report no. 9 of 2002 (*presented 25 September 2002*)
- Report no. 10 of 2002 (*presented 16 October 2002*)
- Report no. 11 of 2002 (*presented 23 October 2002*)
- Report no. 12 of 2002 (*presented 13 November 2002*)
- Report no. 13 of 2002 (*presented 4 December 2002*)
- Report no. 14 of 2002 (*presented 11 December 2002*)
- Report no. 1 of 2003 (*presented 5 February 2003*)
- Report no. 2 of 2003 (*presented 5 March 2003*)
- Report no. 3 of 2003 (*presented 19 March 2003*)
- Report no. 4 of 2003 (*presented 26 March 2003*)
- Report no. 5 of 2003 (*presented 14 May 2003*)
- Report no. 6 of 2003 (*presented 18 June 2003*)
- Report no. 7 of 2003 (*presented 25 June 2003*)
- Report no. 8 of 2003 (*presented 13 August 2003*)
- Report no. 9 of 2003 (*presented 20 August 2003*)
- Report no. 10 of 2003 (*presented 10 September 2003*)
- Report no. 11 of 2003 (*presented 17 September 2003*)
- Report no. 12 of 2003 (*presented 8 October 2003*)
- Report no. 13 of 2003 (*presented 15 October 2003*)
- Report no. 14 of 2003 (*presented 29 October 2003*)
- Report no. 15 of 2003 (*presented 26 November 2003*)
- Report no. 16 of 2003 (*presented 3 December 2003*)
- Report no. 1 of 2004 (*presented 11 February 2004*)
- Report no. 2 of 2004 (*presented 3 March 2004*)
- Report no. 3 of 2004 (*presented 10 March 2004*)
- Report no. 4 of 2004 (*presented 10 March 2004*)

Senators' Interests—Standing Committee

Members

Senator Denman (*Chair*), Senator Lightfoot (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Allison, Forshaw, Humphries, McGauran, Webber and Wong

Notifications of alterations of interests

Register of senators' interests incorporating declarations of interests and notifications of alterations of interests lodged between 26 June 2001 and 6 December 2001

(presented to the President on 21 December 2001, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2002)

Register of senators' interests incorporating declarations of interests and notifications of alterations of interests lodged between 7 December 2001 and 24 June 2002 (tabled 26 June 2002)

Register of senators' interests incorporating current statements of interests, including new statements of interests, and notifications of alterations of interests lodged between 25 June 2002 and 5 December 2002 [2 vols] (tabled 10 December 2002)

Register of senators' interests incorporating statements of interests and notifications of alterations of interests lodged between 6 December 2002 and 19 June 2003 (tabled 24 June 2003)

Register of senators' interests incorporating notifications of alterations of interests lodged between 20 June and 27 November 2003 (tabled 2 December 2003)

Reports presented

Report 1/2002: Annual report 2001 (presented to the President on 28 March 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 14 May 2002)

Report 2/2002: Proposed changes to resolutions relating to declarations of senators' interests and gifts to the Senate and the Parliament (tabled 26 June 2002)

Report 1/2003: Annual report 2002 (tabled 27 March 2003)

Report 1/2004: Annual report 2003 (tabled 12 February 2004)

Document presented

Declarations of senators' interests and gifts to the Senate and the Parliament: Resolutions, explanatory notes and related information (tabled 16 October 2003)

Superannuation—Select Committee

(appointed 14 March 2002; final report tabled 10 September 2003)

Members

Senator Watson (*Chair*), Senator Sherry (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Buckland, Chapman, Cherry, Lightfoot and Wong

Reports presented

Taxation Laws Amendment (Superannuation) Bill (No. 2) 2002 and Superannuation Guarantee Charge Amendment Bill 2002 (tabled 25 June 2002)

Taxation treatment of overseas superannuation transfers (presented to the President on 25 July 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 19 August 2002)

Superannuation (Government Co-contribution for Low Income Earners) Bill 2002 and Superannuation Legislation Amendment Bill 2002 (tabled 26 September 2002)

Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Choice of Superannuation Funds) Bill 2002 (tabled 12 November 2002)

Superannuation and standards of living in retirement: The adequacy of the tax arrangements for superannuation and related policy (tabled 12 December 2002)

Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Amendment Bill 2002 and Superannuation (Financial Assistance Funding) Levy Amendment Bill 2002 (tabled 19 March 2003)

Planning for retirement (presented to the President on 29 July 2003, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 11 August 2003)

Draft Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Amendment Regulations 2003 and draft Retirement Savings Accounts Amendment Regulations 2003 (tabled 10 September 2003)

Superannuation and Financial Services—Select Committee

(appointed 22 September 1999 with effect on and from 11 October 1999; re-appointed as the Superannuation—Select Committee, see above)

Report presented

Early access to superannuation benefits (presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Hogg, on 31 January 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2002)

Documents presented

Early access to superannuation benefits—Discussion paper (presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Hogg, on 31 January 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2002)

Investing superannuation funds in rural and regional Australia—Issues paper (presented to the Deputy President on 7 February 2002, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 12 February 2002)

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee

(appointed 14 February 2002)

Members

Dr Southcott (*Chair*), Mr Wilkie (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Bartlett, Kirk, Marshall, Mason, Santoro, Stephens and Tchen and Mr Adams, Mr Bartlett, Mr Ciobo, Mr Evans, Mr Hunt, Mr PE King and Mr Scott

Current inquiry

Proposed agreement relating to US nationals and the International Criminal Court (referred 2 December 2002)

Reports presented

Report 44—Four nuclear safeguards treaties tabled in August 2001 (tabled 15 May 2002)

Report 45—The Statute of the International Criminal Court (tabled 15 May 2002)

Report 46—Treaties tabled 12 March 2002 (tabled 24 June 2002)

Statement on the 46th report, dated 26 June 2002 (tabled 26 June 2002)

Report 47—Treaties tabled on 18 and 25 June 2002 (tabled 26 August 2002)

Report 48—Treaties tabled in August and September 2002 (tabled 21 October 2002)

Report 49—The Timor Sea Treaty (tabled 12 November 2002)

Report 50—Treaties tabled 15 October 2002 (tabled 10 December 2002)

Report 51—Treaties tabled on 12 November and 3 December 2002 (tabled 19 March 2003)

Report 52—Treaties tabled in March 2003 (tabled 26 June 2003)

Report 53—Treaties tabled in May and June 2003 (tabled 20 August 2003)

Report 54—Treaties tabled in June and August 2003 (tabled 17 September 2003)

Report 55—Treaties tabled on 9 September 2002 (tabled 16 October 2003)

Report 56—Treaties tabled on 8 October 2003 (tabled 1 December 2003)

Report 57—Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 and the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code (tabled 4 December 2003)

* Report 58—Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (tabled 23 March 2004)

SENATE APPOINTMENTS TO STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

Advisory Council on Australian Archives

Senator Faulkner—(*appointed 27 June 2002 for a period of 3 years*).

Council of the National Library of Australia

Senator Tierney (*appointed 14 February 2002 for a period of 3 years*).

Parliamentary Retiring Allowances Trust

Senators Cook and Watson (*appointed 13 May 1998 and 10 February 1994, respectively*).

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HARRY EVANS

Clerk of the Senate

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MINISTERIAL REPRESENTATION

Minister	Representing
Senator the Honourable Robert Hill <i>Minister for Defence</i> <i>Leader of the Government in the Senate</i>	Prime Minister Minister for Trade Minister for Foreign Affairs
Senator the Honourable Nicholas Minchin (<u>Nick</u>) <i>Minister for Finance and Administration</i> <i>Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate</i>	Treasurer Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources
Senator the Honourable Amanda Vanstone <i>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs</i> <i>Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Reconciliation</i>	Minister for Education, Science and Training Minister for Science Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs
Senator the Honourable Kay Patterson <i>Minister for Family and Community Services</i> <i>Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women</i>	Minister for Children and Youth Affairs
Senator the Honourable Christopher Ellison (<u>Chris</u>) <i>Minister for Justice and Customs</i>	Attorney-General
Senator the Honourable Ian Macdonald <i>Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation</i>	Minister for the Environment and Heritage Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Senator the Honourable Charles Kemp (<u>Rod</u>) <i>Minister for the Arts and Sport</i>	Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
Senator the Honourable Eric Abetz <i>Special Minister of State</i>	Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations Minister for Small Business and Tourism Minister for Employment Services
Senator the Honourable Helen Coonan <i>Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer</i>	Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Senator the Honourable Ian Campbell <i>Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads</i> <i>Manager of Government Business in the Senate</i>	Minister for Transport and Regional Services Minister for Health and Ageing Minister for Ageing
Parliamentary Secretary	
Senator the Honourable Judith Troeth <i>Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry</i>	

In those instances where Senators prefer to be known by other than their first name, the preferred name is underlined.

A GUIDE TO THE NOTICE PAPER

The *Notice Paper* is issued each sitting day and contains details of current business before the Senate. Its structure is based on four main types of business, as follows:

Matters of privilege take precedence over all other business and are listed at the beginning of the *Notice Paper* when they arise. They consist of notices of motion which the President has determined warrant such precedence and any orders relating to uncompleted debates on such motions.

Business of the Senate has precedence over government and general business for the day on which it is listed. It includes disallowance motions, orders of the day for the presentation of committee reports, motions to refer matters to standing committees, motions for leave of absence for a senator and motions concerning the qualification of a senator.

Government business is business initiated by a minister. It takes precedence over general business except for a period of 2½ hours each week set aside on Thursdays for general business.

General business is all other business initiated by senators who are not ministers. It takes precedence over government business only as described above.

Within each of these categories, business consists of notices of motion and orders of the day:

Notices of motion are statements of intention that senators intend to move particular motions on the days indicated. They are entered on the *Notice Paper* in the order given and may be given jointly by two or more senators. Notices of motion are usually considered before orders of the day.

Orders of the day are items of business which the Senate has ordered to be considered on particular days, usually arising from adjourned debates on matters (including legislation) or requirements to present committee reports.

On days other than Thursdays, the *Notice Paper* records in full current items of business of the Senate and government business, but includes only new items of general business from the previous sitting day. On Thursdays, business relating to the consideration of government documents, committee reports and government responses to committee reports is also published.

Other sections in the *Notice Paper* are as follows:

Orders of the day relating to committee reports and government responses follows government business and lists orders of the day for adjourned debates on motions to consider or adopt committee reports and government responses which have been presented during the week. These orders may be considered for one hour on Thursdays at the conclusion of general business. New items appear in the following day's *Notice Paper*. The section is printed in full on Thursdays.

Orders of the day relating to government documents appears in general business and lists orders of the day for adjourned debates on motions to take note of government documents. Such orders arise from consideration of the government documents presented on a particular day and include consideration of any documents not reached on the day. They are also listed for consideration for one hour on Thursdays during the consideration of general business. New items appear in the following day's *Notice Paper*. The section is printed in full on Thursdays.

Business for future consideration lists any notice of motion or order of the day to be considered on a specific day in the future; for example, a committee report ordered to be presented on a specific date, or a notice of motion given for a day other than the next day of sitting.

Bills referred to committees lists all bills or provisions of bills currently being considered by committees.

Questions on notice includes the text of new questions on notice and lists the numbers of unanswered questions.

Orders of the Senate includes orders of short-term duration such as orders for production of documents and those relating to days of sitting for a period of sittings.

Contingent notices of motion are statements of intention by senators that, contingent on a specified occurrence, they may move a motion, usually to suspend standing orders. They are grouped by subject.

Temporary chairs of committees is a daily list of all senators appointed to take the chair in the absence of the President or Deputy President.

Categories of committees is a daily list, categorised by type, of Senate and joint committees. Details of each committee appear in the committee section.

Committees lists all of Senate and joint committees, including membership, current inquiries and reports presented on or since the previous sitting day.

Senate appointments to statutory authorities lists the statutory authorities on which the Senate is represented and details of representation.

Ministerial representation lists Senate ministers and the portfolios they represent.

The ‘full’ Notice Paper

On the first day of each period of sittings a full *Notice Paper* is printed listing all outstanding business before the Senate, including the full text of all unresolved notices of motion and unanswered questions on notice. This edition is a complete reference to unresolved business from earlier in the session and is useful to keep. All business before the Senate is published daily in the full online version of the *Notice Paper*, available on ParlInfo and on the Senate’s Internet site at aph.gov.au/senate.

Inquiries concerning the *Notice Paper* or business listed in it may be directed to the Senate Table Office on (02) 6277 3018.