

2004-05

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

THE SENATE

NOTICE PAPER

No. 11

TUESDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2005

The Senate meets at 12.30 pm

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

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Notices of Motion

Notice given 16 November 2004

- 1 **Senator Ridgeway:** To move—That the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Amendment Regulations 2004 (No. 1), as contained in Statutory Rules 2004 No. 176 and made under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*, be disallowed.

Five sitting days remain for resolving.**

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

Notice given 9 December 2004

- *2 **Senator Greig:** To move—That the proposed accreditation of the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fisheries Management Plan (as amended), dated 10 November 2004 and made under subsection 33(3) of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, be opposed.

Fifteen sitting days remain for resolving.**

** *Indicates sitting days remaining, including today, within which the motion must be disposed of or the proposed accreditation of the plan will be deemed to have been opposed.*

- *3 **Senator Murray:** To move—That the terms of reference for the Legal and Constitutional References Committee inquiry into the effectiveness and appropriateness of the *Privacy Act 1988*, be amended as follows:

Paragraph (b), after “effectiveness”, insert “, including how privacy principles and processes should interact with the need for access to records,”.

Order of the Day

- 1 **Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

Report to be presented on the provisions of the Private Health Insurance Incentives Amendment Bill 2004. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Orders of the Day

- 1 **Disability Discrimination Amendment (Education Standards) Bill 2004 [2005]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell*)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (17 November 2004).

- 2 **Criminal Code Amendment (Trafficking in Persons Offences) Bill 2004 [2005]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Ellison*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (8 December 2004).
- 3 **Bankruptcy and Family Law Legislation Amendment Bill 2004 [2005]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator Ludwig, 29 November 2004*).
- *4 **Tax Laws Amendment (Long-term Non-reviewable Contracts) Bill 2004**—(*Minister for the Arts and Sport, Senator Kemp*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (9 December 2004).
- *5 **A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Imposition (Recipients)—General) Bill 2004**
A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Imposition (Recipients)—Excise) Bill 2004
A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Imposition (Recipients)—Customs) Bill 2004—(*Minister for the Arts and Sport, Senator Kemp*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (9 December 2004).
- *6 **Australian Passports Bill 2004**
Australian Passports (Application Fees) Bill 2004
Australian Passports (Transitionals and Consequential) Bill 2004—(*Minister for the Arts and Sport, Senator Kemp*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (9 December 2004).
- 7 **Governor-General's Opening Speech**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Knowles—That the following address-in-reply be agreed to:

To His Excellency the Governor-General

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—
We, the Senate of the Commonwealth of Australia in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament.
And on the amendment moved by Senator Bartlett—That the following words be added to the address-in-reply:
“, but the Senate is of the opinion that the Government's failure to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, to take strong action to reduce Australia's greenhouse emissions and to urge the United States of America to do likewise, is putting at risk international efforts on climate change”—(*adjourned, Minister for Finance and Administration (Senator Minchin), 9 December 2004*).
- 8 **Superannuation Legislation Amendment Bill 2004**—(*Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Ellison*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*adjourned, Senator George Campbell, 2 December 2004*).
- 9 **Australian Sports Commission Amendment Bill 2004 [2005]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Ellison*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (8 December 2004).

- 10 **Postal Industry Ombudsman Bill 2004 [2005]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (17 November 2004).
- 11 **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Amendment Bill 2004 [2005]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Ellison*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (1 December 2004).

GENERAL BUSINESS

Notices of Motion

Notice given 16 November 2004

- 10 **Senator Harradine:** To move—That Budget estimates supplementary hearings by legislation committees for the 2004-05 estimates meet, where senators give notice of matters in accordance with standing order 26(10), as follows:

Group A:

Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
Finance and Public Administration
Legal and Constitutional
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

Tuesday, 30 November, from 8 pm to 11 pm; and

Group B:

Community Affairs
Economics
Employment, Workplace Relations and Education
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Wednesday, 1 December, from 8 pm to 11 pm.

Notice given 9 December 2004

- *56 **Senator Brown:** To move—That the Senate calls on the Government to investigate the potential for a World Heritage nomination for Tasmania's Tarkine wilderness.

Orders of the Day relating to Government Documents

- 1 **Australian Law Reform Commission—Report no. 99—Genes and ingenuity: Gene patenting and human health, June 2004**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Buckland—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Bartlett, 9 December 2004*).
- 2 **Housing Assistance Act 1996—Report for 2002-03 on the operation of the 1999 Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement [Final]**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Buckland—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Bartlett, 9 December 2004*).

3 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority—Report for 2003-04

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Buckland—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Bartlett, 9 December 2004*).

4 Office of the Federal Privacy Commissioner—Report for 2003-04 on the operation of the *Privacy Act 1988*

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Buckland—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Bartlett, 9 December 2004*).

5 National Oceans Office—Report for 2003-04

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Buckland—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Bartlett, 9 December 2004*).

6 Sydney Harbour Federation Trust—Report for 2003-04

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Buckland—That the Senate take note of the document (*adjourned, Senator Bartlett, 9 December 2004*).

7 Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs—Report for 2003-04, including reports pursuant to the *Immigration (Education) Act 1971* and the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948*

Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Buckland—That the Senate take note of the document (*Senator Bartlett, in continuation, 9 December 2004*).

***8 Department of Defence—Special purpose flights—Schedule for the period January to June 2004**

Consideration (*9 December 2004*).

***9 Former parliamentarians' travel paid by the Department of Finance and Administration—January to June 2004, dated December 2004**

Consideration (*9 December 2004*).

***10 Parliamentarians' travel paid by the Department of Finance and Administration—January to June 2004, dated December 2004**

Consideration (*9 December 2004*).

Orders of the Day**1 Anti-Genocide Bill 1999 [2004]—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Greig*)**

Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).

2 Charter of Political Honesty Bill 2000 [2004]—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Murray*)

Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).

3 Constitution Alteration (Appropriations for the Ordinary Annual Services of the Government) 2001 [2004]—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senators Murray and Stott Despoja*)

Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).

4 Constitution Alteration (Electors' Initiative, Fixed Term Parliaments and Qualification of Members) 2000 [2004]—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Murray*)

Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).

- 5 **Defence Amendment (Parliamentary approval for Australian involvement in overseas conflicts) Bill 2003 [2004]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Bartlett and Senator Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).
- 6 **Electoral Amendment (Political Honesty) Bill 2003 [2004]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Murray*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).
- 7 **Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Invasive Species) Bill 2002 [2004]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Bartlett*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).
- 8 **Euthanasia Laws (Repeal) Bill 2004**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).
- 9 **Financial Management and Accountability (Anti-Restrictive Software Practices) Amendment Bill 2003 [2004]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Greig*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).
- 10 **Freedom of Information Amendment (Open Government) Bill 2003 [2004]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Murray*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).
- 11 **Genetic Privacy and Non-discrimination Bill 1998 [2004]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).
- 12 **Ministers of State (Post-Retirement Employment Restrictions) Bill 2002 [2004]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senators Stott Despoja and Murray*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).
- 13 **National Animal Welfare Bill 2003 [2004]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Bartlett*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).
- 14 **Patents Amendment Bill 1996 [2004]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).
- 15 **Parliamentary Approval of Treaties Bill 1995 [2004]**—(*Senate bill*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).
- 16 **Public Interest Disclosure (Protection of Whistleblowers) Bill 2002 [2004]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Murray*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).
- 17 **Reconciliation Bill 2001 [2004]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Ridgeway*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).
- 18 **Republic (Consultation of the People) Bill 2001 [2004]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).
- 19 **Sexuality Anti-Vilification Bill 2003 [2004]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Greig*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).

- 20 **Sexuality and Gender Identity Discrimination Bill 2003 [2004]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Greig*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).
- 21 **State Elections (One Vote, One Value) Bill 2001 [2004]**—(*Senate bill*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).
- 22 **Textbook Subsidy Bill 2003 [2004]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).
- 23 **Uranium Mining in or near Australian World Heritage Properties (Prohibition) Bill 1998 [2004]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Allison*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).
- 24 **Workplace Relations Amendment (Paid Maternity Leave) Bill 2002 [2004]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Stott Despoja*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 17 November 2004*).
- 25 **Communications—Telstra**
Adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Conroy—That the Senate—
(a) notes that:
 (i) the Government has failed to ensure that telecommunications service standards are up to scratch in rural and regional Australia,
 (ii) the chief of the Government’s telecommunications inquiry, Mr Dick Estens, has said that telecommunications services in the bush remain a ‘shemozzle’, and
 (iii) selling Telstra will cost the budget \$255 million over the next 4 years; and
(b) calls on the Government to keep Telstra in majority public ownership to ensure reliable telecommunications services for all Australians—(*Senator Heffernan, in continuation, 18 November 2004*).
- 26 **Criminal Code Amendment (Workplace Death and Serious Injury) Bill 2004**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Nettle*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 30 November 2004*).
- 27 **Constitution Alteration (Right to Stand for Parliament—Qualification of Members and Candidates) 1998 (No. 2) [2004]**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Brown*)
In committee (*committee to consider the bill as reported by the committee of the whole on 15 May 2003*)—(*restored pursuant to resolution of 1 December 2004*).
- *28 **Senate Voters’ Choice (Preference Allocation) Bill 2004**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Brown*)
Second reading—Adjourned debate (*Senator Brown, in continuation, 9 December 2004*).
- *29 **Flags Amendment (Eureka Flag) Bill 2004**—(*Senate bill*)—(*Senator Marshall*)
Second reading (*restored pursuant to resolution of 9 December 2004*).
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BUSINESS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

On 10 February 2005

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 **Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

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

General Business—Notice of Motion

Notice given 1 December 2004

27 **Senator Lees:** To move—That the Senate—

- (a) acknowledges the threats facing the endangered Asian elephant throughout its natural range, including live trade, human-elephant conflict and poaching for ivory tusks, hide and meat;
- (b) notes that:
 - (i) the Asian elephant is listed as an Appendix I species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES),
 - (ii) Appendix I species are those whose trade must be subject to particularly strict regulation, and only authorised in exceptional circumstances,
 - (iii) Australia has been a party to CITES since 1976,
 - (iv) implementation of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* serves as Australia's way of meeting its international obligations as a CITES party,
 - (v) under the Act, CITES Appendix I species cannot be imported for the purpose of exhibition, and zoos must prove that they are able to meet the biological and behavioural needs of the animals if importation is for reasons such as conservation breeding,
 - (vi) Australian zoos have requested permission from the Australian Government to import nine Asian elephants from Thailand as part of a captive breeding program,
 - (vii) research undertaken by Oxford University in 2002 and supported by peers has identified that zoos are unable to meet the biological and behavioural needs of elephants in captivity, as elephants in captivity suffer from stress and boredom leading to abnormal behaviours and have a greater incidence of infant mortality and early death, and
 - (viii) the proposed captive breeding program offers no conservation benefit to the Asian elephant species as no offspring will ever be returned to the wild and elephants do not breed successfully in captivity; and
- (c) calls on the Government to:
 - (i) reject the proposal that would allow the impending and any future importation of elephants from Thailand to Australian zoos,
 - (ii) work with the zoo association and non-government organisations to undertake an assessment of welfare conditions for elephants currently held in Australian zoos, and

- (iii) earmark funding from the Regional Natural Heritage Program addressing biodiversity hotspots in the Asia Pacific region, for in situ conservation projects that will help to address the threats facing the Asian elephant in Thailand and other range states.

On 7 March 2005

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

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

Report to be presented on the provisions of the Broadcasting Services Amendment (Anti-Siphoning) Bill 2004. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

2 Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee

Report to be presented on the provisions of the Workplace Relations Amendment (Right of Entry) Bill 2004. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

On 8 March 2005

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

1 Administration of Indigenous Affairs—Select Committee

Report to be presented.

2 Legal and Constitutional References Committee

Report to be presented on Australian expatriates.

On 10 March 2005

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

1 Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee

Report to be presented on the Administrative Appeals Tribunal Amendment Bill 2004. (*Referred pursuant to Selection of Bills Committee report.*)

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

Report to be presented on the provisions of the Australian Communications and Media Authority Bill 2004, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2004, the Datacasting Charge (Imposition) Amendment Bill 2004, the Radio Licence Fees Amendment Bill 2004, the Radiocommunications (Receiver Licence Tax) Amendment Bill 2004, the Radiocommunications (Spectrum Licence Tax) Amendment Bill 2004, the Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Amendment Bill 2004, the Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Charges) Amendment Bill 2004, the Telecommunications (Numbering Charges) Amendment Bill 2004 and the Television Licence Fees Amendment Bill 2004, and related matters.

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

Report to be presented on budgetary and environmental implications of the Government's Energy White Paper .

Government Business—Order of the Day

1 Administrative Appeals Tribunal Amendment Bill 2004 [2005]—(Senate bill)—(Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell)

Second reading—Adjourned debate (17 November 2004).

On 14 March 2005

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

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

Report to be presented on the provisions of the Workplace Relations Amendment (Small Business Employment Protection) Bill 2004.

Ten sitting days after today (17 March 2005)

Business of the Senate—Notices of Motion

Notice given 2 December 2004

1 Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Tchen): To move—That the Air Navigation (Aviation Security Status Checking) Regulations 2004, as contained in Statutory Rules 2004 No. 207 and made under the *Air Navigation Act 1920*, be disallowed.

Eleven sitting days remain for resolving.**

2 Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Tchen): To move—That the Crimes Amendment Regulations 2004 (No. 1), as contained in Statutory Rules 2004 No. 164 and made under the *Crimes Act 1914*, be disallowed.

Eleven sitting days remain for resolving.**

3 Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Tchen): To move—That the National Health Amendment Regulations 2004 (No. 2), as contained in Statutory Rules 2004 No. 186 and made under the *National Health Act 1953*, be disallowed.

Eleven sitting days remain for resolving.**

Notice of intention to withdraw at the giving of notices on 8 February 2005
(*Notice given 9 December 2004*)

- 4 **Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Tchen):** To move—That the National Health (Private Health Insurance Levies) Regulations 2004, as contained in Statutory Rules 2004 No. 187 and made under the *National Health Act 1953*, be disallowed.

Eleven sitting days remain for resolving.**

Notice of intention to withdraw at the giving of notices on 8 February 2005
(Notice given 9 December 2004)

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

On 17 March 2005

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

- 1 **Community Affairs References Committee**
Report to be presented on children in institutional care.
- 2 **Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee**
Report to be presented on the effectiveness of the Australian military justice system.

By the last sitting day in March 2005

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

- 1 **Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**
Report to be presented on the administration of Biosecurity Australia concerning the revised draft import risk analysis for bananas from the Philippines.
- 2 **Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**
Report to be presented on the administration of Biosecurity Australia concerning the revised draft import risk analysis for apples from New Zealand.

On 12 May 2005

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

- 1 **Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee**
Report to be presented on Indigenous education.

On 14 June 2005

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

- 1 **Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee**
Report to be presented on unfair dismissal laws.

On 16 June 2005

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

- 1 **Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee**
Report to be presented on compensation for wheat growers.
- 2 **Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee**
Report to be presented on student income support.

On 22 June 2005

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

- 1 **Finance and Public Administration References Committee**
Report to be presented on government advertising.

On 23 June 2005

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

- 1 **Community Affairs References Committee**
Report to be presented on aged care.

On 30 June 2005

Business of the Senate—Orders of the Day

- 1 **Treaties—Joint Standing Committee**
Report to be presented on the proposed agreement relating to US nationals and the International Criminal Court.
- *2 **Legal and Constitutional References Committee**
Report to be presented on the effectiveness and appropriateness of the *Privacy Act 1988*.

On 15 August 2005

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

- 1 **Finance and Public Administration References Committee**
Report to be presented on Regional Partnerships program.

By the first sitting day in September 2005

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

- *1 **Economics References Committee**
Report to be presented on possible links between household debt, demand for imported goods and Australia's current account deficit.

On 15 September 2005

Business of the Senate—Order of the Day

1 Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

Report to be presented on Australia's relationship with China.

BILLS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES

Bills currently referred†

Administrative Appeals Tribunal Amendment Bill 2004‡

Referred to the Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee (*referred 1 December 2004; reporting date: 10 March 2005*).

Provisions of bills currently referred†

Australian Communications and Media Authority Bill 2004

Australian Communications and Media Authority (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2004

Datacasting Charge (Imposition) Amendment Bill 2004

Radio Licence Fees Amendment Bill 2004

Radiocommunications (Receiver Licence Tax) Amendment Bill 2004

Radiocommunications (Spectrum Licence Tax) Amendment Bill 2004

Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Amendment Bill 2004

Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Charges) Amendment Bill 2004

Telecommunications (Numbering Charges) Amendment Bill 2004

Television Licence Fees Amendment Bill 2004

Referred to the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee (*referred 8 December 2004; reporting date: 10 March 2005*).

Broadcasting Services Amendment (Anti-Siphoning) Bill 2004‡

Referred to the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee (*referred 8 December 2004; reporting date: 7 March 2005*).

National Health Amendment (Prostheses) Bill 2004‡

Referred to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee (*referred 8 December 2004; reporting date: 10 February 2005*).

Private Health Insurance Incentives Amendment Bill 2004‡

Referred to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee (*referred 1 December 2004; reporting date: 8 February 2005*).

Workplace Relations Amendment (Right of Entry) Bill 2004†

Referred to the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee (referred 8 December 2004; reporting date: 7 March 2005).

Workplace Relations Amendment (Small Business Employment Protection) Bill 2004

Referred to the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee (referred 9 December 2004; reporting date: 14 March 2005).

†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.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions remaining unanswered

Question Nos, as shown, from 1 to 309 remain unanswered for 30 or more days (see standing order 74(5)).

Notice given 16 November 2004

- 1 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to the announcement by the Minister on 23 August 2004 of a \$48 million package to improve security within Australia's regional airports:

- (1) Is any of the money for this package coming from the air passenger ticket levy that was imposed in order to meet the entitlements of former Ansett employees.
- (2) (a) How much money was raised by the levy; and (b) of this, how much has been paid to former Ansett employees.
- (3) How much remains to be paid to former Ansett employees in order to fully meet their entitlements.

- 6 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—With reference to a letter dated 17 September 2003 sent by Mr D Brown of Ocean Reef, Western Australia, to the Commonwealth Ombudsman, Professor John McMillan, in which he specified six alleged irregularities in the conduct of the ombudsman, and asked for a detailed response to each complaint:

- (1) Has the ombudsman received this letter; if so, has he responded to the complaints made in the letter; if not, when will a response be made.
- (2) Does the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman respond to complaints made about the office itself, whether or not these are the basis of a formal complaint about a particular individual within the office.
- (3) Has the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman established a benchmark time frame for responding to complaints about the office.

Senator Allison: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 19-20)—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the resolution of the Parliament of the European Union (EU) dated 28 October 2004 which calls on its 25 member states to

stop the deployment of high intensity active naval sonar until more is known about the harm it inflicts on whales and other marine life.

- (2) Is the Minister aware of the report of the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) which found compelling evidence that entire populations of whales and other marine mammals are potentially threatened by increasingly intense man-made underwater noise, both regionally and ocean-wide.
- (3) Is the Minister aware that the IWC expressed particular concern about the effects of high intensity sonar, noting that the association with certain mass strandings 'is very convincing and appears overwhelming'.
- (4) Will the Government consider joining the EU in supporting the establishment of a multinational task force to develop an international agreement on sonar and other sources of intense ocean noise in order to exclude and seek alternatives to the harmful sonars used and to immediately restrict the use of high intensity active naval sonars in waters falling under their jurisdiction; if not, why not.
- (5) Will the Minister provide details of: (a) the sonar systems used in Australian waters; and (b) the proposals to use active sonar during the proposed joint military training exercises between Australia and the United States of America (US) in Shoalwater Bay and surrounding waters.
- (6) Will the environmental management plans for these joint military training exercises be made public and will the precautionary principle be adopted in all circumstances.
- (7) Will the Minister provide details of proposals to adopt the new Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System Low Frequency Active system, currently in use on two US Navy ships, for Australian warships and submarines.
- (8) What efforts have been made by the Government to improve knowledge about the distribution of whales in Australian waters and the effects of active sonar systems on marine life.
- (9) Will the environmental impact of the use of active sonar systems in joint military exercises and more generally be overseen and assessed by marine scientists independent of government; if so, by whom; if not, why not.

20 Minister for the Environment and Heritage

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

- (1) When will the report resulting from the Investment Review of Health and Medical Research be made public.
- (2) What are the reasons for the delay in the publication of the report.
- (3) What plans does the Government have to implement the recommendations of the report.

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

- (1) For each of the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 (to date): (a) how many appeals for ministerial discretion to grant a visa to remain in Australia were made by people whose visas were cancelled under subsection 501(2) of the *Migration Act 1958*; and (b) how many times did the Minister exercise discretion to grant a visa to a person whose visa was cancelled under section 501 of the Act.
- (2) Does the Minister have the power to re-instate a permanent resident visa previously cancelled under sections 200 or 501 of the Act.

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

- (1) What discussions or consultations were conducted with industry and consumer groups regarding the pre-election announcement of compulsory 12.5 per cent cuts in the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prices for newly listed medicines.
- (2) (a) How will this savings measure be realised; (b) what legislative changes will be required; and (c) when will these be presented to the Parliament for consideration.
- (3) What information does the Minister have on the potential consequences of these enforced cuts in PBS prices for the sustainability of the pharmaceutical industry in Australia.
- (4) What work has been done to study the impact of this decision on the take-up of generic medicine manufacture.
- (5) What information does the Minister have on the potential consequences of these enforced cuts in PBS prices for community pharmacies.

27 **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 Monitorings 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.
- 28 **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.
- 29 **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.
- 30 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—
- (1) For each of the financial years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03, how much was spent on advertising and marketing in relation to the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP).
 - (2) For the 2003-04 financial year to date, how much has been spent on advertising and marketing in relation to the NAP.
 - (3) For each state and territory, how much has been spent on foundation funding, priority actions, regional investment strategies and capacity building under the NAP.
 - (4) Can details be provided of the priority actions that have received funding under the NAP in South Australia, Queensland, Western Australia and New South Wales.
 - (5) Can copies be provided of the strategic investment plans that have been prepared in relation to the NAP for each state and territory.

31 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Ageing—

- (1) What monitoring has taken place of the Kanella Aged Care Home since the audit report of February 2004, which found non-compliance with 14 expected outcomes.
- (2) Which of these non-compliant outcomes has been made compliant.
- (3) What monitoring took place between the audit report of 2003 and the subsequent decision to accredit this aged care home, and the 2004 audit.
- (4) Why were the non-compliant outcomes not identified before February 2004.

32 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—

- (1) Why has the Treasurer imposed competition payment penalties on the Government of South Australia and ignored the arguments it put forward about the social impact that would result from that state removing its 'proof of need' test for hotel and retail liquor merchant licences, as required by the National Competition Council.
- (2) Does the Treasurer accept advice from the Government of South Australia, and the Drug and Alcohol Services Council, the Salvation Army and the South Australia Police, that removing the 'proof of need' test would result in greater alcohol-related harm; if not, why not.
- (3) Does the Treasurer accept the arguments put forward by the South Australian Premier on 2 June 2004 that the 'proof of need' test protects against business failures in the industry, and against market domination by one or two powerful players, which would lead to a reduction in competition; if not, why not.
- (4) What other competition payment penalties will be or have been imposed on state governments, despite arguments put forward by those governments in relation to social and/or health impacts.

33 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—

- (1) Is the company Betfair registered for the goods and services tax (GST) in Australia; if so, when did it register.
- (2) Is it correct that GST was payable by Betfair on revenues received from Australian residents using this wagering platform; if so: (a) was the GST paid; and (b) if the GST was not paid, what action has been taken in respect of that non-payment.

36 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Ageing—

- (1) Does the data provided to the Aged and Community Services Association survey of December 2003 in the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales show that: (a) an estimated 8 800 people have their names on nursing home (high care) waiting lists and 11 800 on hostel (low care) waiting lists; (b) a further 1 700 people are estimated to have their names on waiting lists for Community Aged Care Packages (CACPs); (c) the average waiting time for: (i) nursing homes is 24 weeks (up from 19 weeks in 2001), (ii) hostels is 36 weeks (up from 32 weeks in 2001), and (iii) CACPs is 18 weeks (up from 13 weeks in 2001), and (d) areas with particularly long waiting lists, compared to the number of available places, include the Australian Capital Territory, the Central Coast, the Hunter region, Western Sydney and Far North Queensland.
- (2) Is more recent data on waiting lists in any or all of these areas available; if so, can it be provided.

- (3) Can data on waiting lists for the other states and territories in any or all of these areas be provided.
 - (4) Can the latest data be provided on the number of non-operational residential care places in each state and territory.
 - (5) For each state and territory, what is the average wait for low and high care residential places following assessment by an Aged Care Assessment Team that a person requires residential care.
 - (6) For each state and territory, how many people who have been assessed as requiring low and high residential care are: (a) in acute care public hospitals; (b) in acute care private hospitals; and (c) in transitional placements other than in their homes or those of family carers.
- 37 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—
- (1) Did the Prime Minister receive a letter dated 18 May 2004 from Federation Fellowship holders recommending that the Government include in its Energy White Paper the following fundamental policy principles: (a) raising subsidies for the installation of photovoltaics or solar hot water systems; and (b) actively stimulating both fundamental research and the commercialisation of renewable energy products.
 - (2) Given that the Federation Fellows are recognised as being at the forefront expertise in scientific research, what steps did the Prime Minister take to ensure the Fellows' recommendations were taken into account in the development of the Energy White Paper.
- 47 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Education, Science and Training—With reference to the answer to question on notice no. 3073: What is the projected expenditure for the National Safe Schools Framework for the period 2006 to 2008.
- 49 **Senator Murray:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—
- (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.
- 50 **Senator Murray:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations—
- (1) Can a table be provided of all unfair dismissal applications under federal and state law for the 1996 calendar year for each state and territory, showing the number of applications under federal law, state law, and the total.
 - (2) Can a table be provided of all unfair dismissal applications under federal and state law for the 2003 calendar year for each of the states and territories, showing the number of applications under federal law, state law, and the total.

- (3) Can a table be provided showing the number and percentage change of applications for the 2003 calendar year against the 1996 calendar year for each of state and territory, broken down by whether the applications were lodged under federal or state law.
 - (4) Can a breakdown be provided showing the same information shown in (1) to (3) above in relation to small business (classified as 20 or fewer employees).
 - (5) Can an estimate be provided of the numbers of small businesses that fall under state and federal workplace relations law separately, for each state and territory.
 - (6) Can an estimate be provided of the numbers of small business employees that fall under state and federal workplace relations law separately, for each state and territory.
- 51 **Senator Harris:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to the National Livestock Identification System:
- (1) Which specific country or countries have asked Australia to implement the electronic tagging system.
 - (2) Why has Meat and Livestock Australia refused to carry out a cost-benefit analysis of this system.
 - (3) Why is this system, which imposes a cost burden on the beef industry, not being implemented for other industries such as pork, seafood and chicken, which have a far worse food contamination track record.
 - (4) Has the Minister applied any pressure on or requested any state to implement the system.
 - (5) Will the Government meet or subsidise the cost of implementing the system in Queensland.
- 52 **Senator Greig:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer—With reference to a recent application by Open Doors Youth Service Inc. to the Australian Taxation Office for public benevolent institution and deductible gift recipient status, which was rejected on the grounds that the organisation, a support service for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people, did not satisfy the requirements of a benevolent institution:
- (1) Does the Minister consider that the conditions or misfortunes Open Doors is seeking to relieve, that is, suffering, distress, destitution, homelessness, suicide risk, disadvantage, discrimination, and isolation, which it claims occur as a direct result of homophobia, are such as to arouse pity or compassion in the community.
 - (2) What criteria does the Australian Taxation Office use to determine that a condition or misfortune arouses pity or compassion in the community.
 - (3) Does the Minister consider the experience of discrimination and homophobia experienced by many young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people to be part of the emotional stress and pain encountered in ordinary human experience.
 - (4) What balance between direct benevolent relief and other purposes and activities must an organisation achieve to satisfy the test that it is predominantly for benevolent relief.
 - (5) Given that the Australian Taxation Office has advised that 'one may readily accept that an institution with an independent object of fostering the

cultural values of a particular group would not be a public benevolent institution': (a) what constitutes an 'independent object'; and (b) in instances where an organisation's main objectives relate to benevolent relief, but contain additional objectives that refer to fostering of cultural values, how does the Australian Taxation Office determine those other objectives to be of such significant weight as to indicate that the dominant purpose of the organisation is not to provide benevolent relief.

- (6) Does the Minister acknowledge that in certain circumstances, an individual's experience of poverty, sickness, suffering, distress, misfortune, disability or helplessness may be directly relieved through the provision of community education or services that foster values and, if so, that such activity would then constitute benevolent relief.

Notice given 17 November 2004

56 **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'.)

57 **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.

58 **Senator Evans:** To ask 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.

60 **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.

61 **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.

62 **Senator Evans:** To ask the Minister for Defence—With reference to a luncheon function involving senior business people on Sunday, 28 March 2004, which was held at Fort Denison to promote Defence Reserves to employers:

- (1) Did the Minister for Employment Services and General Cosgrove attend the lunch.
- (2) How many other Australian Defence Force (ADF) and departmental personnel attended the lunch.
- (3) Did any other federal government parliamentarians attend; if so, who.
- (4) Were any non-government federal parliamentarians invited to attend; if so, who.
- (5) Which business people attended the lunch.
- (6) Were the travel costs of any of the business people who travelled from around Australia to attend the lunch borne by the taxpayer; and (b) can details be provided of all travel costs that were met, specifying which Defence program was used to fund this travel.
- (7) Can copies be provided of the menu and the drinks menu.
- (8) Were the following dishes served: Peking duck with cucumber, shallots and plum; seared scallops with prawn gow gee; soy and ginger glaze salt rubbed salmon with Asian mushrooms and fried sage; slow roasted, pepper crusted, rib eye fillet; and crisp roasted barramundi.
- (9) What was the cost of the food served at the lunch.
- (10) How many bottles of wine, champagne and beer were served.
- (11) What was the cost of alcohol served at the lunch.
- (12) What was the cost per bottle of the most expensive wine and champagne served.
- (13) Did the department pay for this lunch; if so, which program was the money drawn from; if not, who paid.
- (14) Can a list be provided showing all of the associated costs of this lunch, including table hire, glass hire, waiting staff etc.

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

- (1) When did the department first become aware of the Mitchell Shire Council's plans to build a refuse tip in the vicinity of the army base at Puckapunyal.
- (2) (a) What is the exact distance of the proposed site from the entrance to the Puckapunyal base; and (b) how big is the site.
- (3) (a) When did the department first raise concerns with the Mitchell Shire Council about the proposal to use the land for a refuse tip; and (b) how were these concerns raised, for example, by letter, face-to-face meetings etc.
- (4) Who raised the concerns with the council.
- (5) When was it decided that the department would seek to compulsorily acquire the proposed landfill site.
- (6) Who made this decision.
- (7) On what basis was this decision taken.

- (8) How much will it cost the department to acquire the land.
 - (9) (a) Is the Minister aware that the Victorian Civil and Administration Tribunal (VCAT) found that the department's concerns about the proposed landfill site were not substantiated; and (b) why was this decision not accepted by the Commonwealth.
 - (10) Was it always the Commonwealth's intention to compulsorily acquire the proposed landfill site, regardless of the outcome of the VCAT's deliberations; if so, why.
 - (11) Given that the VCAT found that the department's concerns were not justified, why has the Commonwealth now compulsorily acquired land at this site to prevent the building of the tip.
 - (12) Has the Commonwealth valued the site; if so: (a) when; (b) what was the value of the site; and (c) can a copy of the valuation be provided.
 - (13) When was the law firm Clayton Utz first engaged to advise the Commonwealth on this matter.
 - (14) Can a list be provided of all Clayton Utz lawyers who have represented and/or advised the Commonwealth in respect of this matter.
 - (15) How much has been paid to Clayton Utz in respect of this matter.
 - (16) (a) What other law firms were engaged to provide advice and/or representation on this matter; (b) was the Australian Government Solicitor engaged; and (c) how much were they paid.
 - (17) (a) How much has the Commonwealth spent on legal advice and/or representation in respect of this matter; and (b) can a breakdown be provided of all legal expenses in respect of this matter.
- 64 **Senator Evans:** To ask the Minister for Defence—With reference to page 96 of the 2004-05 Defence Portfolio Budget Statements, which indicates that the Government has agreed on a schedule of surplus Defence properties to be offered for sale in the 2004-05 financial year, and that on current valuations these sales will reap an estimated \$164.5 million in revenue: Can a list be provided of all properties that the Government has agreed will be offered for sale during the 2004-05 financial year including: (a) the property name and/or address; (b) the type of property (vacant/buildings); (c) the size of the property; and (d) the type of sale (auction, request for proposal, advertised price).
- 66 **Senator Evans:** To ask the Minister for Defence—
- (1) What was the value of computing and information technology equipment purchased by Defence in each month of the 2003-04 financial year.
 - (2) Is all of this equipment now in use within Defence.
 - (3) Is any of the equipment not in use and instead in storage; if so, how much of the equipment is in storage (that is, how many monitors, personal computers, printers etc).
- 68 **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.
- 69 **Senator Brown:** To ask 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.

70 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—With reference to Telstra's proposal to build a telecommunications tower at Bindaree Road, Legana, Tasmania:

- (1) Does the Government support Telstra's decision to appeal against the decision of a democratically-elected local government which refused to allow the construction of a telecommunications tower at Bindaree Road; if so, does the Government believe that Telstra's agenda should override the wishes of a local community.
- (2) Does the Government consider that Telstra's decision to refuse to discuss alternative sites at a mediation meeting that it facilitated is reasonable.
- (3) What regulations are in place concerning the placing of telecommunications towers in close proximity to residences.
- (4) What regulations are in place to prevent Telstra constructing telecommunications towers in existing electrical transmission corridors.
- (5) Taking into account the precautionary principle, can the Government guarantee that no adverse human health effects result from living in close proximity to telecommunications towers; if so, why has the Government allocated further funding for on-going research into potential health risks from electro-magnetic emissions devices and phone towers.

71 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources—With reference to the Rio Tinto Foundation for a Sustainable Minerals Industry:

- (1) Can a copy of the foundation's 2002-03 annual report be provided.
- (2) Can a list be provided of the 32 programs to which funding was allocated in the first year, including the title of the program, the amount of funding, start and finish dates, key researchers, and expected outcomes.
- (3) Can a list be provided of patents applied for arising from research funded wholly or partially by the foundation.
- (4) Can a detailed account be provided of the expenditure to date of the \$35 million of public money and the matching funds from Rio Tinto.

72 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—With reference to the letter sent to the then Minister, the Hon Daryl Williams, on 30 May 2004 by the Australian Indigenous

Communications Association, which included 19 requests for an undertaking by the Minister in relation to the department taking over responsibility for Indigenous broadcasting and other Indigenous media from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission:

- (1) Has the Minister responded to each of the points raised; if not, which responses are still outstanding.
- (2) Which of the requested undertakings has the Government: (a) agreed to; and (b) declined.
- (3) Subsequent to receipt of the letter, has there been any meeting between representatives of the association and: (a) the previous or current Minister; (b) ministerial advisers; and (c) officers of the department.

73 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—With reference to the statement to the Senate by the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee on the Casualties of Telstra (COT) issues, which was tabled on 11 March 1999:

- (1) How much has been spent by Telstra in relation to the COT issues.
- (2) How much of this money has been spent on settlements with the original claimants.
- (3) (a) How many of the original claimants have reached a settlement with Telstra; and (b) how many have still to reach a settlement.
- (4) Has any settlement been reached between Telstra and each of the original complainants in relation to the communication problems which were the basis of the inquiry.

74 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—With reference to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and the non-payment of superannuation contributions by small businesses: Why does the ATO not regularly and routinely monitor superannuation compliance in the same way that it monitors goods and services tax and provisional tax compliance.

75 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—With reference to the Australian Taxation Office and the non-payment of superannuation contributions by small businesses: Why is the system structured in such a way that small businesses are able to avoid paying superannuation contributions by using such strategies as changing their corporate identities every few years.

80 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—With reference to the Australian Taxation Office and the non-payment of superannuation contributions by small businesses:

- (1) Why do employees have to wait until the October after the end of each financial year to find out whether or not their employer has made superannuation contributions.
- (2) Why can employees not opt to have their employer pay superannuation contributions monthly or quarterly, as this would give them the opportunity to take action in the case of non-payment before the bill becomes too large.

84 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—Given that: (a) according to the Yellow Pages section of the Sensis website, there are '14 million directories delivered free every year to virtually every home and business in Australia'; (b) in some cases, several directories are delivered to the one home or business; (c) on-line directories are

available as an alternative to printed versions; (d) many directories are never used; and (e) each directory uses resources and energy for its production and delivery: Will the Government, as the majority shareholder in Telstra or through regulation, require Telstra, through its directories arm Sensis, to attempt to reduce the numbers of Yellow Pages directories circulated to those that are actually needed by the community.

90 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—

- (1) Has the Government provided any funding for the reconstruction of Iraq; if so: (a) how much; (b) when was it allocated; and (c) to which fund in Iraq was it allocated.
- (2) If funding has been provided: (a) who oversaw the distribution of the funds; (b) how much has been expended to date; (c) what oversight and bidding requirements were placed on the distribution of that funding by the Australian Government; (d) what activities and projects have been funded; (e) which companies have been successful tenderers for that funding in Iraq; and (f) has Halliburton been the recipient of any of that funding; if so: (i) how much, and (ii) for what purpose.
- (3) Has there been an audit of the fund into which any Australian funds were deposited under the Coalition Provisional Authority; if so, will the Prime Minister release the audit; if not, will the Prime Minister request such an audit.

Notice given 18 November 2004

93 **Senator Hutchins:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—With reference to the Goat Industry Council of Australia:

- (1) What is the council's role and function.
- (2) (a) How many members are on the council; (b) who are they; and (c) how are they appointed.
- (3) Do council members receive remuneration from the Commonwealth; if so, how much.
- (4) Over the past three financial years, what grants, income or other funds has the council received and administered, either directly or indirectly from the Commonwealth.

95 **Senator Denman:** To ask the Minister for the Arts and Sport—

- (1) In each of the financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05 (to date): (a) how many Commonwealth grants were made to sporting associations or sporting clubs for the maintenance of facilities or equipment in: (i) New South Wales, (ii) Victoria, (iii) Queensland, (iv) South Australia, (v) Western Australia, (vi) Tasmania, (vii) the Northern Territory, and (viii) the Australian Capital Territory; (b) under what program was each grant made; and (c) what was the nature and amount of each grant.
- (2) In the 2004-05 financial year: (a) how many Commonwealth grants have been committed but not yet made to sporting associations or sporting clubs for the maintenance of facilities or equipment in: (i) New South Wales, (ii) Victoria, (iii) Queensland, (iv) South Australia, (v) Western Australia, (vi) Tasmania, (vii) the Northern Territory, and (viii) the Australian Capital Territory; (b) under what program has each commitment been made; and (c) what is the nature and amount of each commitment.

96 **Senator Denman:** To ask the Minister for the Arts and Sport—

- (1) In each of the financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05 (to date): (a) how many Commonwealth grants were made to local government bodies or community organisations (other than sporting associations or sporting clubs) for sports or recreation purposes in: (i) New South Wales, (ii) Victoria, (iii) Queensland, (iv) South Australia, (v) Western Australia, (vi) Tasmania, (vii) the Northern Territory, and (viii) the Australian Capital Territory; (b) under what program was each grant made; and (c) what was the nature and amount of each grant.
- (2) In the 2004-05 financial year: (a) how many Commonwealth grants have been committed but not yet made to local government bodies or community organisations (other than sporting associations or sporting clubs) for sports or recreation purposes in: (i) New South Wales, (ii) Victoria, (iii) Queensland, (iv) South Australia, (v) Western Australia, (vi) Tasmania, (vii) the Northern Territory, and (viii) the Australian Capital Territory; (b) under what program has each commitment been made; and (c) what is the nature and amount of each commitment.

98 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to Tasmanian devils and the devil facial tumour disease:

- (1) What percentage of Tasmanian devils have been killed by the disease.
- (2) Will the Minister declare the Tasmanian devil a threatened species; if so, when; if not, why not.
- (3) What hypotheses have been advanced or eliminated for the cause and transmission of the disease.
- (4) Is there a coordinated research program for the devil facial tumour condition; if not, why not.
- (5) What role has the Australian Wildlife Health Network played in coordinating the research relating to this disease.
- (6) Why is the public being denied any information regarding the research outcomes on causal factors and transmission processes.
- (7) Is the Minister satisfied that the Tasmanian Government has the expertise and capacity to adequately respond to this significant wildlife disease.

99 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to Tasmania devils and the Government's election commitment to allocate \$2 million for the devil facial tumour disease:

- (1) Has the Government determined the research priorities for the \$2 million lump sum to be allocated for the disease.
- (2) Will the Commonwealth maintain control over the scientific evaluation, direction and publication of the research effort funded by the Commonwealth.
- (3) What accountability procedures have been put in place for all Commonwealth funds allocated to Tasmania to date for research on Tasmanian devils.
- (4) To date, what outputs have resulted from the World Heritage project funding for the disease.

100 **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.
- (4) What are the criteria being used for making claims against the liquidator in the case of Computerised Holdings.
- (5) Is it intended that legal advice be sought on any distribution of assets ahead of the payment of workers' entitlements.

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

- (1) Is it correct that: (a) on 18 January 1996, a Deputy Commissioner of the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), Mr J M Wheeler, determined in favour of a Queensland taxpayer who had been issued with an amended assessment for the tax year ending 30 June 1995 in relation to a tea tree project investment; (b) in this determination, Mr Wheeler awarded the taxpayer a refund or credit of tax paid, interest and penalty; and (c) on 6 December 1999, the same Queensland taxpayer was again issued with an amended assessment for the tax year ending 30 June 1995 in relation to the same tea tree project investment.
- (2) Why did the ATO renege on the determination of Mr Wheeler in relation to that investment.
- (3) Is it correct that the ATO is citing the decision in *Commissioner of Taxation v Sleight [2004] FCAFC 94* as justification for action it has taken on agricultural projects structured in a similar way to those of Mr Sleight.
- (4) Given Mr Wheeler's determination, why did the ATO decide on 21 December 2000 not to allow Mr Sleight's objection to the amended assessment he received on 12 October 1999.

Notice given 19 November 2004

102 **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.

103 **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.

104 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer—

- (1) What was the additional cost of re-shooting the superannuation co-contribution advertising campaign when it was decided by the Ministerial Committee on Government Communications that the size of the pig had to be reduced.
- (2) Who made the decision that a re-shoot was required.
- (3) Did the print material have to be adjusted; if so, what was the additional cost.

105 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer—With reference to the Superannuation Co-contribution advertising campaign:

- (1) For each of the financial years, 2003-04 and 2004-05: (a) what is the cost of this advertising campaign; and (b) what is the breakdown of these advertising costs for: (a) television (TV) placements; (b) radio placements; (c) newspaper placements; (d) mail outs with brochures and letters signed by Mr Carmody; and (e) advertising research.
- (2) When did TV advertising screening begin, and when is it planned to end.
- (3) How many letters were sent by Mr Carmody.
- (4) On what basis was the mail out selected.
- (5) What database was used to select addresses – the Australian Taxation Office database, the electoral database or other.
- (6) Given that the advertisements now do not reflect Government policy on the co-contribution, is there any plan to update the campaign; if so, what campaign components will be updated and how much will this cost.
- (7) (a) What appropriations will the department use to authorise any of the payments either committed to be made or proposed to be made as part of this advertising campaign; (b) will those appropriations be made in the 2003-04 or 2004-05 financial year; (c) will the appropriations relate to a departmental or administered item or the Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration; and (d) if an appropriation relates to a departmental or administered item, what is the relevant line item in the relevant Portfolio Budget Statement for that item.
- (8) Has a request been made of the Minister for Finance and Administration to issue a drawing right to pay out moneys for any part of the advertising campaign; if so: (a) what are the details of that request; and (b) against which particular appropriation is it requested that the money be paid.
- (9) Has the Minister for Finance and Administration issued a drawing right as referred to in paragraph (8) above; if so, what are the details of that drawing right.
- (10) Has an official or minister made a payment of public money or debited an amount against an appropriation in accordance with a drawing right issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration for any part of the advertising campaign.

106 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Minister for Family and Community Services—With reference to the More Help For Families advertising campaign:

- (1) For each of the financial years, 2003-04 and 2004-05: (a) what is the cost of this advertising campaign; and (b) what is the breakdown of these advertising costs for: (a) television (TV) placements; (b) radio placements; (c) newspaper placements; (d) printing and mail outs; and (e) research.
- (2) What: (a) creative agency or agencies; and (b) research agency or agencies; have been engaged for the campaign.
- (3) When did TV advertising screening begin, and when is it planned to end.
- (4) If there is a mail out planned, what database will be used to select addresses – the Australian Taxation Office database, the electoral database or other.
- (5) (a) What appropriations will the department use to authorise any of the payments either committed to be made or proposed to be made as part of this advertising campaign; (b) will those appropriations be made in the

2003-04 or 2004-05 financial year; (c) will the appropriations relate to a departmental or administered item or the Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration; and (d) if an appropriation relates to a departmental or administered item, what is the relevant line item in the relevant Portfolio Budget Statement for that item.

- (6) Has a request been made of the Minister for Finance and Administration to issue a drawing right to pay out moneys for any part of the advertising campaign; if so: (a) what are the details of that request; and (b) against which particular appropriation is it requested that the money be paid.
- (7) Has the Minister for Finance and Administration issued a drawing right as referred to in paragraph (6) above; if so, what are the details of that drawing right.
- (8) Has an official or minister made a payment of public money or debited an amount against an appropriation in accordance with a drawing right issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration for any part of the advertising campaign.

107 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—With reference to the Working to Keep the Country Connected advertising campaign:

- (1) For each of the financial years, 2003-04 and 2004-05: (a) what is the cost of this advertising campaign; and (b) what is the breakdown of these advertising costs for: (a) television (TV) placements; (b) radio placements; (c) newspaper placements; (d) printing and mail outs; and (e) research.
- (2) On which TV stations is the advertising campaign screening.
- (3) What: (a) creative agency or agencies; and (b) research agency or agencies; have been engaged for the campaign.
- (4) When will the campaign begin, and when is it planned to end.
- (5) If there is a mail out planned, to whom will it be targeted and what database will be used to select addresses – the Australian Taxation Office database, the electoral database or other.
- (6) (a) As of 1 June 2004, how many phone calls has the Telinfo hotline received; and (b) how many hits has the Telinfo website had.
- (7) (a) What appropriations will the department use to authorise any of the payments either committed to be made or proposed to be made as part of this advertising campaign; (b) will those appropriations be made in the 2003-04 or 2004-05 financial year; (c) will the appropriations relate to a departmental or administered item or the Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration; and (d) if an appropriation relates to a departmental or administered item, what is the relevant line item in the relevant Portfolio Budget Statement for that item.
- (8) Has a request been made of the Minister for Finance and Administration to issue a drawing right to pay out moneys for any part of the advertising campaign; if so: (a) what are the details of that request; and (b) against which particular appropriation is it requested that the money be paid.
- (9) Has the Minister for Finance and Administration issued a drawing right as referred to in paragraph (8) above; if so, what are the details of that drawing right.
- (10) Has an official or minister made a payment of public money or debited an amount against an appropriation in accordance with a drawing right issued

by the Minister for Finance and Administration for any part of the advertising campaign.

108 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the Environment/Resource Management advertising campaign:

- (1) For each of the financial years, 2003-04 and 2004-05: (a) what is the cost of this advertising campaign; and (b) what is the breakdown of these advertising costs for: (a) television (TV) placements; (b) radio placements; (c) newspaper placements; (d) printing and mail outs; and (e) research.
- (2) What: (a) creative agency or agencies; and (b) research agency or agencies; have been engaged for the campaign.
- (3) When will the campaign begin, and when is it planned to end.
- (4) If there is a mail out planned, to whom will it be targeted and what database will be used to select addresses – the Australian Taxation Office database, the electoral database or other.
- (5) (a) What appropriations will the department use to authorise any of the payments either committed to be made or proposed to be made as part of this advertising campaign; (b) will those appropriations be made in the 2003-04 or 2004-05 financial year; (c) will the appropriations relate to a departmental or administered item or the Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration; and (d) if an appropriation relates to a departmental or administered item, what is the relevant line item in the relevant Portfolio Budget Statement for that item.
- (6) Has a request been made of the Minister for Finance and Administration to issue a drawing right to pay out moneys for any part of the advertising campaign; if so: (a) what are the details of that request; and (b) against which particular appropriation is it requested that the money be paid.
- (7) Has the Minister for Finance and Administration issued a drawing right as referred to in paragraph (6) above; if so, what are the details of that drawing right.
- (8) Has an official or minister made a payment of public money or debited an amount against an appropriation in accordance with a drawing right issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration for any part of the advertising campaign.

109 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the Waste Oil advertising campaign:

- (1) For each of the financial years, 2003-04 and 2004-05: (a) what is the cost of this advertising campaign; and (b) what is the breakdown of these advertising costs for: (a) television (TV) placements; (b) radio placements; (c) newspaper placements; (d) printing and mail outs; and (e) research.
- (2) What: (a) creative agency or agencies; and (b) research agency or agencies; have been engaged for the campaign.
- (3) When will the campaign begin, and when is it planned to end.
- (4) If there is a mail out planned, to whom will it be targeted and what database will be used to select addresses – the Australian Taxation Office database, the electoral database or other.
- (5) (a) What appropriations will the department use to authorise any of the payments either committed to be made or proposed to be made as part of this advertising campaign; (b) will those appropriations be made in the 2003-04 or 2004-05 financial year; (c) will the appropriations relate to a

departmental or administered item or the Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration; and (d) if an appropriation relates to a departmental or administered item, what is the relevant line item in the relevant Portfolio Budget Statement for that item.

- (6) Has a request been made of the Minister for Finance and Administration to issue a drawing right to pay out moneys for any part of the advertising campaign; if so: (a) what are the details of that request; and (b) against which particular appropriation is it requested that the money be paid.
- (7) Has the Minister for Finance and Administration issued a drawing right as referred to in paragraph (6) above; if so, what are the details of that drawing right.
- (8) Has an official or minister made a payment of public money or debited an amount against an appropriation in accordance with a drawing right issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration for any part of the advertising campaign.

110 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Minister for Family and Community Services—
With reference to the Keeping the System Fairer advertising campaign:

- (1) For each of the financial years, 2003-04 and 2004-05: (a) what is the cost of this advertising campaign; and (b) what is the breakdown of these advertising costs for: (a) television (TV) placements; (b) radio placements; (c) newspaper placements; (d) printing and mail outs; and (e) research.
- (2) What: (a) creative agency or agencies; and (b) research agency or agencies; have been engaged for the campaign.
- (3) When will the campaign begin, and when is it planned to end.
- (4) If there is a mail out planned, to whom will it be targeted and what database will be used to select addresses – the Australian Taxation Office database, the electoral database or other.
- (5) (a) What appropriations will the department use to authorise any of the payments either committed to be made or proposed to be made as part of this advertising campaign; (b) will those appropriations be made in the 2003-04 or 2004-05 financial year; (c) will the appropriations relate to a departmental or administered item or the Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration; and (d) if an appropriation relates to a departmental or administered item, what is the relevant line item in the relevant Portfolio Budget Statement for that item.
- (6) Has a request been made of the Minister for Finance and Administration to issue a drawing right to pay out moneys for any part of the advertising campaign; if so: (a) what are the details of that request; and (b) against which particular appropriation is it requested that the money be paid.
- (7) Has the Minister for Finance and Administration issued a drawing right as referred to in paragraph (6) above; if so, what are the details of that drawing right.
- (8) Has an official or minister made a payment of public money or debited an amount against an appropriation in accordance with a drawing right issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration for any part of the advertising campaign.

111 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Minister for Family and Community Services—With reference to the Philanthropy advertising campaign:

- (1) For each of the financial years, 2003-04 and 2004-05: (a) what is the cost of this advertising campaign; and (b) what is the breakdown of these advertising costs for: (a) television (TV) placements; (b) radio placements; (c) newspaper placements; (d) printing and mail outs; and (e) research.
- (2) What: (a) creative agency or agencies; and (b) research agency or agencies; have been engaged for the campaign.
- (3) When will the campaign begin, and when is it planned to end.
- (4) If there is a mail out planned, to whom will it be targeted and what database will be used to select addresses – the Australian Taxation Office database, the electoral database or other.
- (5) (a) What appropriations will the department use to authorise any of the payments either committed to be made or proposed to be made as part of this advertising campaign; (b) will those appropriations be made in the 2003-04 or 2004-05 financial year; (c) will the appropriations relate to a departmental or administered item or the Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration; and (d) if an appropriation relates to a departmental or administered item, what is the relevant line item in the relevant Portfolio Budget Statement for that item.
- (6) Has a request been made of the Minister for Finance and Administration to issue a drawing right to pay out moneys for any part of the advertising campaign; if so: (a) what are the details of that request; and (b) against which particular appropriation is it requested that the money be paid.
- (7) Has the Minister for Finance and Administration issued a drawing right as referred to in paragraph (6) above; if so, what are the details of that drawing right.
- (8) Has an official or minister made a payment of public money or debited an amount against an appropriation in accordance with a drawing right issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration for any part of the advertising campaign.

112 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer—With reference to the Grants to States advertising campaign:

- (1) For each of the financial years, 2003-04 and 2004-05: (a) what is the cost of this advertising campaign; and (b) what is the breakdown of these advertising costs for: (a) television (TV) placements; (b) radio placements; (c) newspaper placements; (d) printing and mail outs; and (e) research.
- (2) What: (a) creative agency or agencies; and (b) research agency or agencies; have been engaged for the campaign.
- (3) When will the campaign begin, and when is it planned to end.
- (4) If there is a mail out planned, to whom will it be targeted and what database will be used to select addresses – the Australian Taxation Office database, the electoral database or other.
- (5) (a) What appropriations will the department use to authorise any of the payments either committed to be made or proposed to be made as part of this advertising campaign; (b) will those appropriations be made in the 2003-04 or 2004-05 financial year; (c) will the appropriations relate to a departmental or administered item or the Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration; and (d) if an appropriation relates to a

departmental or administered item, what is the relevant line item in the relevant Portfolio Budget Statement for that item.

- (6) Has a request been made of the Minister for Finance and Administration to issue a drawing right to pay out moneys for any part of the advertising campaign; if so: (a) what are the details of that request; and (b) against which particular appropriation is it requested that the money be paid.
- (7) Has the Minister for Finance and Administration issued a drawing right as referred to in paragraph (6) above; if so, what are the details of that drawing right.
- (8) Has an official or minister made a payment of public money or debited an amount against an appropriation in accordance with a drawing right issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration for any part of the advertising campaign.

113 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Minister for Justice and Customs—With reference to the proposed National Security advertising campaign:

- (1) For each of the financial years, 2003-04 and 2004-05: (a) what is the cost of this advertising campaign; and (b) what is the breakdown of these advertising costs for: (a) television (TV) placements; (b) radio placements; (c) newspaper placements; (d) printing and mail outs; and (e) research.
- (2) What: (a) creative agency or agencies; and (b) research agency or agencies; have been engaged for the campaign.
- (3) When will the campaign begin, and when is it planned to end.
- (4) If there is a mail out planned, to whom will it be targeted and what database will be used to select addresses – the Australian Taxation Office database, the electoral database or other.
- (5) (a) What appropriations will the department use to authorise any of the payments either committed to be made or proposed to be made as part of this advertising campaign; (b) will those appropriations be made in the 2003-04 or 2004-05 financial year; (c) will the appropriations relate to a departmental or administered item or the Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration; and (d) if an appropriation relates to a departmental or administered item, what is the relevant line item in the relevant Portfolio Budget Statement for that item.
- (6) Has a request been made of the Minister for Finance and Administration to issue a drawing right to pay out moneys for any part of the advertising campaign; if so: (a) what are the details of that request; and (b) against which particular appropriation is it requested that the money be paid.
- (7) Has the Minister for Finance and Administration issued a drawing right as referred to in paragraph (6) above; if so, what are the details of that drawing right.
- (8) Has an official or minister made a payment of public money or debited an amount against an appropriation in accordance with a drawing right issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration for any part of the advertising campaign.

114 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation—With reference to the proposed Natural Heritage Trust advertising campaign:

- (1) For each of the financial years, 2003-04 and 2004-05: (a) what is the cost of this advertising campaign; and (b) what is the breakdown of these

advertising costs for: (a) television (TV) placements; (b) radio placements; (c) newspaper placements; (d) printing and mail outs; and (e) research.

- (2) What: (a) creative agency or agencies; and (b) research agency or agencies; have been engaged for the campaign.
- (3) When will the campaign begin, and when is it planned to end.
- (4) If there is a mail out planned, to whom will it be targeted and what database will be used to select addresses – the Australian Taxation Office database, the electoral database or other.
- (5) (a) What appropriations will the department use to authorise any of the payments either committed to be made or proposed to be made as part of this advertising campaign; (b) will those appropriations be made in the 2003-04 or 2004-05 financial year; (c) will the appropriations relate to a departmental or administered item or the Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration; and (d) if an appropriation relates to a departmental or administered item, what is the relevant line item in the relevant Portfolio Budget Statement for that item.
- (6) Has a request been made of the Minister for Finance and Administration to issue a drawing right to pay out moneys for any part of the advertising campaign; if so: (a) what are the details of that request; and (b) against which particular appropriation is it requested that the money be paid.
- (7) Has the Minister for Finance and Administration issued a drawing right as referred to in paragraph (6) above; if so, what are the details of that drawing right.
- (8) Has an official or minister made a payment of public money or debited an amount against an appropriation in accordance with a drawing right issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration for any part of the advertising campaign.

115 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations—With reference to the proposed Mature Aged Workers—Increasing Participation Rates advertising campaign:

- (1) For each of the financial years, 2003-04 and 2004-05: (a) what is the cost of this advertising campaign; and (b) what is the breakdown of these advertising costs for: (a) television (TV) placements; (b) radio placements; (c) newspaper placements; (d) printing and mail outs; and (e) research.
- (2) What: (a) creative agency or agencies; and (b) research agency or agencies; have been engaged for the campaign.
- (3) When will the campaign begin, and when is it planned to end.
- (4) If there is a mail out planned, to whom will it be targeted and what database will be used to select addresses – the Australian Taxation Office database, the electoral database or other.
- (5) (a) What appropriations will the department use to authorise any of the payments either committed to be made or proposed to be made as part of this advertising campaign; (b) will those appropriations be made in the 2003-04 or 2004-05 financial year; (c) will the appropriations relate to a departmental or administered item or the Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration; and (d) if an appropriation relates to a departmental or administered item, what is the relevant line item in the relevant Portfolio Budget Statement for that item.

- (6) Has a request been made of the Minister for Finance and Administration to issue a drawing right to pay out moneys for any part of the advertising campaign; if so: (a) what are the details of that request; and (b) against which particular appropriation is it requested that the money be paid.
- (7) Has the Minister for Finance and Administration issued a drawing right as referred to in paragraph (6) above; if so, what are the details of that drawing right.
- (8) Has an official or minister made a payment of public money or debited an amount against an appropriation in accordance with a drawing right issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration for any part of the advertising campaign.

116 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—With reference to the proposed Elimination of Domestic Violence advertising campaign:

- (1) For each of the financial years, 2003-04 and 2004-05: (a) what is the cost of this advertising campaign; and (b) what is the breakdown of these advertising costs for: (a) television (TV) placements; (b) radio placements; (c) newspaper placements; (d) printing and mail outs; and (e) research.
- (2) What: (a) creative agency or agencies; and (b) research agency or agencies; have been engaged for the campaign.
- (3) When will the campaign begin, and when is it planned to end.
- (4) If there is a mail out planned, to whom will it be targeted and what database will be used to select addresses – the Australian Taxation Office database, the electoral database or other.
- (5) (a) What appropriations will the department use to authorise any of the payments either committed to be made or proposed to be made as part of this advertising campaign; (b) will those appropriations be made in the 2003-04 or 2004-05 financial year; (c) will the appropriations relate to a departmental or administered item or the Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration; and (d) if an appropriation relates to a departmental or administered item, what is the relevant line item in the relevant Portfolio Budget Statement for that item.
- (6) Has a request been made of the Minister for Finance and Administration to issue a drawing right to pay out moneys for any part of the advertising campaign; if so: (a) what are the details of that request; and (b) against which particular appropriation is it requested that the money be paid.
- (7) Has the Minister for Finance and Administration issued a drawing right as referred to in paragraph (6) above; if so, what are the details of that drawing right.
- (8) Has an official or minister made a payment of public money or debited an amount against an appropriation in accordance with a drawing right issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration for any part of the advertising campaign.

117 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to the proposed Auslink advertising campaign:

- (1) For each of the financial years, 2003-04 and 2004-05: (a) what is the cost of this advertising campaign; and (b) what is the breakdown of these advertising costs for: (a) television (TV) placements; (b) radio placements; (c) newspaper placements; (d) printing and mail outs; and (e) research.

- (2) What: (a) creative agency or agencies; and (b) research agency or agencies; have been engaged for the campaign.
- (3) When will the campaign begin, and when is it planned to end.
- (4) If there is a mail out planned, to whom will it be targeted and what database will be used to select addresses – the Australian Taxation Office database, the electoral database or other.
- (5) (a) What appropriations will the department use to authorise any of the payments either committed to be made or proposed to be made as part of this advertising campaign; (b) will those appropriations be made in the 2003-04 or 2004-05 financial year; (c) will the appropriations relate to a departmental or administered item or the Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration; and (d) if an appropriation relates to a departmental or administered item, what is the relevant line item in the relevant Portfolio Budget Statement for that item.
- (6) Has a request been made of the Minister for Finance and Administration to issue a drawing right to pay out moneys for any part of the advertising campaign; if so: (a) what are the details of that request; and (b) against which particular appropriation is it requested that the money be paid.
- (7) Has the Minister for Finance and Administration issued a drawing right as referred to in paragraph (6) above; if so, what are the details of that drawing right.
- (8) Has an official or minister made a payment of public money or debited an amount against an appropriation in accordance with a drawing right issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration for any part of the advertising campaign.

118 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to the proposed Regional Information Service advertising campaign:

- (1) For each of the financial years, 2003-04 and 2004-05: (a) what is the cost of this advertising campaign; and (b) what is the breakdown of these advertising costs for: (a) television (TV) placements; (b) radio placements; (c) newspaper placements; (d) printing and mail outs; and (e) research.
- (2) What: (a) creative agency or agencies; and (b) research agency or agencies; have been engaged for the campaign.
- (3) When will the campaign begin, and when is it planned to end.
- (4) If there is a mail out planned, to whom will it be targeted and what database will be used to select addresses – the Australian Taxation Office database, the electoral database or other.
- (5) (a) What appropriations will the department use to authorise any of the payments either committed to be made or proposed to be made as part of this advertising campaign; (b) will those appropriations be made in the 2003-04 or 2004-05 financial year; (c) will the appropriations relate to a departmental or administered item or the Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration; and (d) if an appropriation relates to a departmental or administered item, what is the relevant line item in the relevant Portfolio Budget Statement for that item.
- (6) Has a request been made of the Minister for Finance and Administration to issue a drawing right to pay out moneys for any part of the advertising campaign; if so: (a) what are the details of that request; and (b) against which particular appropriation is it requested that the money be paid.

- (7) Has the Minister for Finance and Administration issued a drawing right as referred to in paragraph (6) above; if so, what are the details of that drawing right.
- (8) Has an official or minister made a payment of public money or debited an amount against an appropriation in accordance with a drawing right issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration for any part of the advertising campaign.

119 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—With reference to the proposed Illicit Drugs—Targeting Youth advertising campaign:

- (1) For each of the financial years, 2003-04 and 2004-05: (a) what is the cost of this advertising campaign; and (b) what is the breakdown of these advertising costs for: (a) television (TV) placements; (b) radio placements; (c) newspaper placements; (d) printing and mail outs; and (e) research.
- (2) What: (a) creative agency or agencies; and (b) research agency or agencies; have been engaged for the campaign.
- (3) When will the campaign begin, and when is it planned to end.
- (4) If there is a mail out planned, to whom will it be targeted and what database will be used to select addresses – the Australian Taxation Office database, the electoral database or other.
- (5) (a) What appropriations will the department use to authorise any of the payments either committed to be made or proposed to be made as part of this advertising campaign; (b) will those appropriations be made in the 2003-04 or 2004-05 financial year; (c) will the appropriations relate to a departmental or administered item or the Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration; and (d) if an appropriation relates to a departmental or administered item, what is the relevant line item in the relevant Portfolio Budget Statement for that item.
- (6) Has a request been made of the Minister for Finance and Administration to issue a drawing right to pay out moneys for any part of the advertising campaign; if so: (a) what are the details of that request; and (b) against which particular appropriation is it requested that the money be paid.
- (7) Has the Minister for Finance and Administration issued a drawing right as referred to in paragraph (6) above; if so, what are the details of that drawing right.
- (8) Has an official or minister made a payment of public money or debited an amount against an appropriation in accordance with a drawing right issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration for any part of the advertising campaign.

120 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—With reference to the current Strengthening Medicare advertising campaign:

- (1) For each of the financial years, 2003-04 and 2004-05: (a) what is the cost of this advertising campaign; and (b) what is the breakdown of these advertising costs for: (a) television (TV) placements; (b) radio placements; (c) newspaper placements; (d) printing and mail outs; and (e) research.
- (2) What: (a) creative agency or agencies; and (b) research agency or agencies; have been engaged for the campaign.
- (3) When will the campaign begin, and when is it planned to end.

- (4) If there is a mail out planned, to whom will it be targeted and what database will be used to select addresses – the Australian Taxation Office database, the electoral database or other.
- (5) (a) What appropriations will the department use to authorise any of the payments either committed to be made or proposed to be made as part of this advertising campaign; (b) will those appropriations be made in the 2003-04 or 2004-05 financial year; (c) will the appropriations relate to a departmental or administered item or the Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration; and (d) if an appropriation relates to a departmental or administered item, what is the relevant line item in the relevant Portfolio Budget Statement for that item.
- (6) Has a request been made of the Minister for Finance and Administration to issue a drawing right to pay out moneys for any part of the advertising campaign; if so: (a) what are the details of that request; and (b) against which particular appropriation is it requested that the money be paid.
- (7) Has the Minister for Finance and Administration issued a drawing right as referred to in paragraph (6) above; if so, what are the details of that drawing right.
- (8) Has an official or minister made a payment of public money or debited an amount against an appropriation in accordance with a drawing right issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration for any part of the advertising campaign.

121 **Senator Faulkner:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs—With reference to the current tranche of the Citizenship advertising campaign:

- (1) For each of the financial years, 2003-04 and 2004-05: (a) what is the cost of this advertising campaign; and (b) what is the breakdown of these advertising costs for: (a) television (TV) placements; (b) radio placements; (c) newspaper placements; (d) printing and mail outs; and (e) research.
- (2) What: (a) creative agency or agencies; and (b) research agency or agencies; have been engaged for the campaign.
- (3) When will the campaign begin, and when is it planned to end.
- (4) If there is a mail out planned, to whom will it be targeted and what database will be used to select addresses – the Australian Taxation Office database, the electoral database or other.
- (5) (a) What appropriations will the department use to authorise any of the payments either committed to be made or proposed to be made as part of this advertising campaign; (b) will those appropriations be made in the 2003-04 or 2004-05 financial year; (c) will the appropriations relate to a departmental or administered item or the Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration; and (d) if an appropriation relates to a departmental or administered item, what is the relevant line item in the relevant Portfolio Budget Statement for that item.
- (6) Has a request been made of the Minister for Finance and Administration to issue a drawing right to pay out moneys for any part of the advertising campaign; if so: (a) what are the details of that request; and (b) against which particular appropriation is it requested that the money be paid.
- (7) Has the Minister for Finance and Administration issued a drawing right as referred to in paragraph (6) above; if so, what are the details of that drawing right.

- (8) Has an official or minister made a payment of public money or debited an amount against an appropriation in accordance with a drawing right issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration for any part of the advertising campaign.

Senator Faulkner: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 122-140)—

- (1) Not including any advertising campaigns contained in questions on notice nos 105 to 121, for each of the financial years, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date: (a) what is the cost of any current or proposed advertising campaign in the department; (b) what are the details of the campaign, including: (a) creative agency or agencies engaged; (b) research agency or agencies engaged; (c) the cost of television advertising; (d) the cost and nature of any mail out; and (e) the full cost of advertising placement.
- (2) When will the campaign begin, and when is it planned to end.
- (3) (a) What appropriations will the department use to authorise any of the payments either committed to be made or proposed to be made as part of this advertising campaign; (b) will those appropriations be made in the 2003-04 or 2004-05 financial year; (c) will the appropriations relate to a departmental or administered item or the Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration; and (d) if an appropriation relates to a departmental or administered item, what is the relevant line item in the relevant Portfolio Budget Statement for that item.
- (4) Has a request been made of the Minister for Finance and Administration to issue a drawing right to pay out moneys for any part of the advertising campaign; if so: (a) what are the details of that request; and (b) against which particular appropriation is it requested that the money be paid.
- (5) Has the Minister for Finance and Administration issued a drawing right as referred to in paragraph (4) above; if so, what are the details of that drawing right.
- (6) Has an official or minister made a payment of public money or debited an amount against an appropriation in accordance with a drawing right issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration for any part of the advertising campaign.

122 Minister representing the Prime Minister

123 Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services

124 Minister representing the Treasurer

125 Minister representing the Minister for Trade

126 Minister for Defence

127 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs

128 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing

129 Minister representing the Attorney-General

130 Minister for Finance and Administration

131 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

132 Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

133 Minister representing the Minister for Education, Science and Training

134 Minister for Family and Community Services

135 Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources

136 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

- 137 Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
- 138 Minister for the Environment and Heritage
- 139 Special Minister of State
- 140 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Notice given 22 November 2004

- 141 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to the grant of \$6 000 000 for the National Equine and Livestock Centre project in Tamworth under the Regional Partnerships Programme:
- (1) (a) What total funds have been paid to the proponent; (b) if the funds were paid in one sum, on what date was the payment made; and (c) if the funds were paid in instalments, please identify instalment dates and amounts paid on each date.
 - (2) What is the name of the proponent.
 - (3) What is the proponent's business address.
 - (4) Will the Minister provide a full description of the project.
 - (5) On what date did the proponent first discuss the Regional Partnerships Programme funding application with the New England North West Area Consultative Committee.
 - (6) On what date was the application submitted to the department.
 - (7) On what date did the department send a copy of the submitted application to the New England North West Area Consultative Committee for comment and recommendation.
 - (8) (a) On what date did the New England North West Area Consultative Committee provide the department with a response; and (b) what was the nature of the response.
 - (9) On what date did the department commence assessment of the application to determine if it was suitable for Regional Partnerships funding.
 - (10) (a) What representations were received from the National Party candidate for New England for the 2004 federal election in respect to the project proposal; and (b) on what date(s) and in what form(s) were the representations made by the candidate.
 - (11) What referees were listed on the application.
 - (12) What project partners, if any, did the application identify.
 - (13) What funding did the application seek.
 - (14) (a) What cash contribution(s) from the proponent and/or project partners did the application identify; and (b) what was the status of the cash contribution(s) when the application was lodged with the department.
 - (15) (a) What in-kind contribution(s) from the proponent and/or project partners did the application identify; and (b) what was the status of the in-kind contribution(s) when the application was lodged with the department.
 - (16) What applications over the previous five years to Commonwealth, state or local governments were identified in the application for funding of the project.
 - (17) Did the application include a breakdown of various project cost items; if not, why not.

- (18) What key milestones were noted in the project timetable that formed part of the application including a project start and completion dates.
- (19) What project rationale was identified in the application.
- (20) How did the project description align with its region's identified priorities, including priorities identified by the New England North West Area Consultative Committee in its Strategic Regional Plan.
- (21) Was a project plan and feasibility study attached to the application; if not, on what date(s) were these documents provided.
- (22) (a) What evidence of community support was contained in the application; and (b) was a letter of support from the unsuccessful National Party candidate for New England for the 2004 federal election and/or Senator Sandy Macdonald attached to the application.
- (23) What evidence was provided in the application demonstrating the project would be self-sustaining.
- (24) Was an independent risk assessment of the proponent or the project or both based on information provided in the Regional Partnerships funding application; if so: (a) on what date was the independent assessment ordered; (b) who undertook it; (c) when was it completed; (d) what was its conclusion; (e) how much did it cost; and (f) can a copy of the assessment report be provided; if not, why not.
- (25) If no independent risk assessment was undertaken, why not.
- (26) With reference to additional requirements imposed on applicants for Regional Partnerships funding exceeding \$250 000:
 - (a) Did the proponent provide an outline of its management structure including full names, dates of birth, current residential addresses and driver's licence numbers of relevant persons concerned with the project; if so, on what date; if not, why not.
 - (b) Did the proponent provide audited profit and loss and balance sheet statements for the previous three financial years; if so, on what date; if not, why not.
 - (c) Did the proponent provide an authorised statement of financial position; if so, on what date; if not, why not.
 - (d) Did the proponent provide tax returns for the past three financial years; if so, on what date; if not, why not.
 - (e) Did the proponent provide a business plan for the project, including: (i) a feasibility study, (ii) industry/data research, (iii) a three year cash flow projection for the project including assumptions used and sensitive factors in the projection, (iv) a market strategy including assumptions used, (v) a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats (SWOT) analysis, and (vi) a full list of pecuniary interests relevant to the project
- (27) Did the initial funding application fully comply with Regional Partnerships Programme guidelines; if not, what elements of the application were non-compliant.
- (28) (a) If applicable, on what date(s) was the application varied; and (b) in each case, how was the application varied.
- (29) (a) On what date did the department make a recommendation to the Minister; (b) what recommendation did the department make; and (c) were any preliminary or draft recommendations referred to the Minister and/or

discussed with his office; if so, what draft recommendations were referred and/or discussed.

- (30) (a) On what occasions did the Minister and/or his office meet with the proponent and/or supporters of the project; and (b) in respect to each occasion, can the Minister identify the date, duration, attendance and matters discussed.
- (31) How did the proponent address each of the matters of concern identified in the 2002 independent assessment of the proposed National Equine and Livestock Centre project by Professor John Chudleigh, including: (a) insufficient funding to complete the project; (b) over ambitious usage targets necessary to service debt; (c) lack of funds from the equine industry; and (d) no prospect of commercial viability.
- (32) Did the Minister impose any unwritten conditions on the grant, including a requirement that the Member for New England step down from the project board and disassociate himself from the proposal.
- (33) On what date was the funding application approved by the Minister.
- (34) On what date(s) and in what form(s) did the department and/or the Minister inform the proponent, the New England North West Area Consultative Committee, the Member for New England and the unsuccessful National Party candidate for New England for the 2004 federal election about the Minister's funding approval.
- (35) On what date did the department and/or the Minister publicly announce the grant.
- (36) Will the Minister provide a copy of the original Regional Partnerships Programme funding application, including attachments, and all subsequent variations; if not, why not.
- (37) On what date did the department commence negotiations with the proponent on a funding agreement.
- (38) On what date was the funding agreement signed.
- (39) Will the Minister provide a copy of the funding agreement; if not, why not.

142 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) On what date did the Minister attend the announcement of the \$6 000 000 grant for the National Equine and Livestock Centre project in Tamworth in the company of Senator Sandy Macdonald, Mr Greg Maguire and others.
- (2) What departmental resources were expended on the planning and execution of the announcement in Tamworth, including but not necessarily limited to: (a) production and postage of invitations; (b) logistics arrangements including the carriage and placement of 'Nationals' banners; (c) departmental staff time including associated remuneration; (d) departmental staff transport; (e) production and distribution of material related to the announcement; (f) refreshments; and (e) media monitoring.
- (3) Were any departmental staff present at the announcement; if so, which staff and what departmental function did they perform.
- (4) Was the unsuccessful National Party candidate for New England for the 2004 federal election invited to the announcement of the grant; if so, did he attend.
- (5) Was the Member for New England invited to the announcement of this grant; if so, did he attend; if not, why not.

143 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to all applications for public funding of the National Equine and Livestock Centre project in Tamworth (excluding the Regional Partnerships Programme application):

- (1) On what dates have applications been received.
- (2) For each application: (a) under what departmental program was funding sought; (b) what quantum of funding was sought; (c) for what purpose was funding sought; (d) (i) what independent assessment was instituted in respect to each application, (ii) who undertook the independent assessment in each case, (iii) over what time were the independent assessments made, and (iv) what was the cost; and (e) (i) what funding decision was made, (ii) who made it, and (iii) on what date was it made.

Notice given 24 November 2004

144 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—

- (1) Has the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) received final advice from legal counsel regarding the feasibility of instituting proceedings against tobacco companies with regard to misleading and deceptive practices in the use of the terms 'mild' and 'light' and other similar descriptors; if so, can a copy be provided.
- (2) If the ACCC has not received this final advice: (a) what has delayed the receipt of this final advice which was expected within a few weeks of the public hearing on 12 August 2004 of the Community Affairs Legislation Committee inquiry into the exposure draft of the Tobacco Advertising Prohibition (Film, Internet and Misleading Promotion) Amendment Bill 2004 and the adequacy of the ACCC response to date on issues concerning tobacco; and (b) when will the advice be received.
- (3) If the ACCC has received such advice: (a) what was the outcome of the ACCC's consideration of this advice; and (b) has the ACCC approached the Minister in regard to this advice; if so, what was the outcome of the Minister's consideration of this matter.

145 **Senator Nettle:** To ask the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that 3G mobile phone towers are currently being built in suburban backyards, local parks and school grounds in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.
- (2) Is the Minister aware of a January 2004 review by the British Advisory Group on Non-Ionising Radiation of the latest scientific developments in relation to mobile communications and health, which concluded that there is still a possibility of negative impacts on human health, particularly for children suffering extended exposure, and continued research is needed.
- (3) Given the ongoing concerns about the health impacts of radiation generated by 3G mobile telephone towers, why doesn't the Australian Communications Authority have any role in authorising where these facilities are placed, monitoring their ongoing maintenance and upgrading, or determining whether these individual installations comply with low-impact criteria.
- (4) Given the ongoing concerns about the effects of the radiation generated by 3G mobile telephone towers, and the fact that approximately 5 000 new 3G telecommunications facilities are expected to be installed over the next

2 years, why does the Government believe that regulation of the construction and placing of these towers can be left to a voluntary code drawn up by the industry itself, via the Australian Communications Industry Forum (ACIF).

- (5) If federal legislation allows 3G mobile phone towers to be installed without council approval, why does no federal body have the power to regulate the installation of these facilities.
- (6) Will the Minister investigate complaints of alleged breaches of the ACIF code with regard to the location and siting of 3G towers in and around schools, in local parks and in suburban backyards; if not, why not.
- (7) Are there any 3G mobile phone towers situated on Commonwealth controlled crown land; if so: (a) where; (b) how many 3G mobile phone towers are sited on Commonwealth controlled crown land; and (c) what is the approximate rent paid for the use of this land.
- (8) Does the Commonwealth have any guidelines or requirements for the placing of 3G towers on state government controlled crown land; if not, why not.
- (9) Does the Commonwealth Government have records of all 3G mobile phone towers in Australia that are situated within 300m of places where children congregate for long periods.
- (10) Does the Commonwealth Government have records showing how many 3G mobile phone towers are situated within school grounds and in suburban backyards.
- (11) What has the Commonwealth Government done to alert school staff and parents of the possible health impacts associated with 3G mobile phone towers in schools where the towers are located within 300 metres of playgrounds and sports ovals.

Notice given 25 November 2004

146 **Senator Greig:** To ask the Minister for the Arts and Sport—With reference to the maintenance and conservation of the Commonwealth's cultural and artistic property and art collection:

- (1) Are external or private contractors used by the Commonwealth in the maintenance and conservation of the Commonwealth's cultural and artistic property and art collection; if so, is there a tendering system in place; if so, can a copy of the relevant documents for that tendering process be provided.
- (2) Does the Commonwealth maintain a register of preferred contractors for the maintenance and conservation of its cultural and artistic property and art collection; if so: (a) what eligibility criteria determine inclusion on the register; (b) are full-time or part-time Commonwealth or state public servants eligible to tender and/or be included on any register; and (c) can a copy of the register be provided.
- (3) Is it appropriate that part-time or full-time public servants are eligible to tender for Commonwealth contracts for the maintenance and conservation of the Commonwealth's cultural and artistic property and art collection; if so, on what grounds.
- (4) Is the Minister aware of any full-time or part-time Commonwealth or state public servants being granted contracts for work on the Commonwealth's cultural and artistic property and art collection.

- (5) Is the Minister satisfied that the tendering process for work on the maintenance and conservation of the Commonwealth's cultural and artistic property and art collection is transparent, accountable and fair.
- (6) What insurance is required by external contractors before they are eligible to tender for work.
- (7) Are there any instances in which insurance requirements have been waived; if so: (a) what criteria applied to such waiver(s); (b) how many external contractors in the past 5 years have had the insurance criteria waived; and (c) how many of these have been full-time or part-time Commonwealth or state public servants.
- (8) Has the Commonwealth reviewed insurance requirements for external contractors since the onset of the insurance industry crisis; if so, what was the outcome of that review.
- (9) Is consideration given to the impact of insurance requirements on the commercial viability of external contractors to bid for work maintaining and conserving the Commonwealth's cultural and artistic property and art collection.
- (10) Are tenders for work on the Commonwealth's cultural and artistic property and art collection consistent with the Commonwealth's rules on tendering.
- (11) Is the code of practice of the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials (AICCM) relevant to how and when work is carried out on the Commonwealth's cultural and artistic property and art collection; if so, what role does the AICCM code of practice or the AICCM itself, play in vetting external contractors granted contracts to supply goods or services to the Commonwealth.
- (12) Does national competition policy apply to individual Commonwealth and state and/or territory public servants in tendering for work to be done on the Commonwealth's cultural and artistic property and art collection; if so, how.

Notice given 29 November 2004

148 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Education, Science and Training—

- (1) Which schools received National Safe Schools Framework (NSSF) grants in 2004.
- (2) Which schools will receive NSSF grants in 2005.
- (3) When will the 2004 grants be evaluated.

Notice given 1 December 2004

152 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the nomination of the northern peninsula of Recherche Bay for the National Heritage List:

- (1) What studies have been undertaken to ascertain the values of the area.
- (2) When will the assessment of the nomination be completed.
- (3) What action will be taken to ensure that no activities detrimental to the protection of the area are proceeded with before a decision is made about the nomination.

153 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the answer to question on notice no. 1370 (Senate *Hansard*, 11 August 2003, p.13099):

- (1) Is the Minister aware that: (a) a Forest Practices Plan (FPP) for a road through Southport Lagoon Conservation Area and Extension and private property (FPP No. RMS0090) expired on 30 June 2003; and (b) there is a FPP also numbered FPP RMS0090, but applying only to private property, represented as a variation of the original plan, which expires on 30 June 2005.
- (2) What action will the Minister take to ensure that any works in the Southport Lagoon Conservation Area and Extension will be subject to assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, particularly in relation to threats to the endangered swamp eyebright, for example, through damage from off-road vehicles, invasion by weeds and *Phytophthera cinnamomi*.

155 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for Justice and Customs—For each state and territory in each of the past 10 years up to and including 2004 (to date), how many persons have been: (a) convicted of drug-related offences; (b) gaoled for drug-related offences; and (c) diverted to health or education or other remedial options after apprehension for drug-related offences.

Notice given 2 December 2004

158 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—For each state and territory in each of the past 10 years up to and including 2004 (to date), how many Australians died of the effects or abuse of: (a) alcohol; (b) tobacco; (c) prescription pharmaceuticals; and (d) non-prescription pharmaceuticals.

Notice given 6 December 2004

160 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—

- (1) Has an application been received by the Foreign Investment Review Board from Xstrata Plc, Glencore International AG, their subsidiaries or related entities to take over WMC Resources Ltd; if so, on what date was the application made.
- (2) (a) What is the process of investigation of such takeovers; (b) what time limits apply; and (c) what assessments would be made of the corporate behaviour of any applicant, domestically or internationally.
- (3) In the event of an application being considered, will the report of the Western Australian Parliament's Economics and Industry Standing Committee, *Inquiry into Vanadium Resources at Windimurra*, which deals with the closure of the Windimurra vanadium mine in Western Australia by Xstrata Plc, be taken into account.
- (4) Will consideration of any application also take into account allegations made publicly to the effect that the closure of the Windimurra mine by Xstrata Plc involved unconscionable conduct, including false and misleading statements about the viability of the mine and deliberate destruction of the mine's operational future resulting in significant financial loss for other investors.

Notice given 7 December 2004

- 163 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—Of the 993 complaints about the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's 2004 election coverage: (a) how many complained of political bias; and (b) of these, against which party or party leader was the bias claimed.
- 164 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to seismic testing approvals:
- (1) Did the Minister approve activities proposed by Santos Ltd, and contracted to Multiwave Geophysical Company's seismic survey vessel, *Pacific Titan*, as detailed in a letter sent from Santos Ltd to the Australian Democrats, dated 8 November 2004.
 - (2) (a) Will the Minister provide details of the potential interactions with marine mammals that were considered within the assessment process required under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*; (b) were impacts on any other marine animals considered within the assessment process for this activity; and (c) will the Minister provide details of all other seismic activities he has approved to be carried out in Australian waters during the period 8 November 2004 to 30 May 2005.
 - (3) Have aural cavity biopsies been undertaken, either by Commonwealth or state agencies, on any of the whales that beached themselves on Tasmania's coast in November 2004; if not, will the Minister ensure such biopsies are done in order to assess the degree to which ocean noise may have played a part in the beachings and subsequent fatalities.
 - (4) Is the Minister aware of any evidence linking use of navy sonar or seismic activities to marine mammal strandings in Australian waters; if so, will the Minister provide details.

Notice given 8 December 2004

Senator Bishop: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos 166-168)—With reference to the Minister's official engagements on 15 November 2004:

- (1) Where did each engagement occur.
- (2) What was the nature of each engagement.
- (3) What was the start and finish time of each engagement.
- (4) (a) When was the Minister invited to, or when did the Minister first become aware of, each engagement; and (b) on what date did the Minister commit to attending each engagement.
- (5) (a) Who attended each engagement; and (b) in what capacity did they attend.
- (6) What was the cost incurred by the Commonwealth in arranging or ensuring the Minister's attendance at each engagement.
- (7) Will the Minister provide details of invitations or approaches to attend other official engagements on 15 November 2004 which the Minister either declined or delegated.

166 Minister representing the Prime Minister

167 Minister for Defence

168 Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs

170 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister for Defence—With reference to the Minister's visit to Iraq in December 2004:

- (1) When did planning for the visit begin.
- (2) (a) Did the original idea for the visit originate from the Minister's office, the department, or the Prime Minister's office; and (b) was the visit based on media or policy advice.
- (3) Were specific media representatives selected to accompany the Minister; if so, how were they selected.
- (4) (a) Which media representatives were selected; and (b) which opted to accept the invitation to accompany the Minister.
- (5) Besides media representatives: (a) who else accompanied the Minister; and (b) in which capacity did they accompany the Minister.
- (6) (a) What was the cost to the Commonwealth of the trip to Iraq; and (b) are there any costs to the Commonwealth which could be attributed to the contingent of media representatives who accompanied the Minister.

171 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister for Defence—With reference to weapons and ordnance unaccounted for by the Australian Defence Force (ADF) either through loss or theft:

- (1) For each of the past 3 financial years, what was: (a) the date the items were lost; (b) the location from where the weapons and/or ordnance went missing; (c) the Service from which the weapons and/or ordnance went missing; (d) the type of weapons and/or ordnance lost; and (e) the specific use of the weapons and/or ordnance.
- (2) What is the current replacement value in Australian dollars of the weapons and/or ordnance.
- (3) Which weapons and/or ordnance are suspected of being: (a) lost; or (b) stolen.
- (4) Were any weapons and/or ordnance recovered; if so, where were they recovered.
- (5) Where weapons and/or ordnance have been recovered, and a theft is suspected, have charges been laid; if so, what convictions have been obtained.
- (6) (a) What steps have been taken by the ADF to reduce the theft or loss of weapons and/or ordnance; and (b) can details be provided of the measurable outcomes of these steps to date.

Notice given 9 December 2004

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

- (1) For each of the past 12 months up to 31 December 2004: (a) how many veterans have been transported from Tasmania to the mainland to access: (i) medical specialist treatment, and (ii) hospital treatment; and (b) how many war widows have been transported from Tasmania to the mainland to access: (i) medical specialist treatment, and (ii) hospital treatment.
- (2) For each case in (1), what was: (a) the type of treatment accessed; (b) the location of the accessed treatment; and (c) the number of visits to date.
- (3) For each case in (1), what was the cost of: (a) the treatment; (b) transportation to the place of treatment; and (b) accommodation.

- (4) In how many cases has: (a) spousal travel been approved, and at what cost; and (b) special ambulance aircraft been required.
- (5) For each of the past 3 financial years, how much has been paid to medical specialists in Tasmania.
- (6) By speciality and state, how many medical specialists have now indicated their unwillingness to accept the Gold Card.
- (7) From 1 January 2005, what will be the average percentage of the Medical Benefits Schedule, of all Gold Card schedule items for: (a) consultations; and (b) procedures.
- (8) What is the daily rate agreed to under the Gold Card scheme for each private and public hospital in Australia.
- (9) How many inquiries have been received by the department during 2004 from veterans and war widows seeking assistance in obtaining specialist medical treatment.
- (10) (a) What amount was spent on transport of veterans and war widows to all medical appointments in each state over the past 3 financial years, and up to 31 December 2004; (b) by state and territory, how many individual journeys did this represent; and (c) by state and territory, what was the division of costs between: (i) private transport reimbursement, (ii) booked car with driver, (iii) air travel, and (iv) other.
- (11) (a) On how many occasions during the past 3 financial years and up to 31 December 2004 did the department refer compensation claimants to specialists for medical assessment by state and territory and speciality; and (b) at what annual cost.

*173 **Senator Stott Despoja:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—
 (a) When did Cabinet decide to sponsor the Belgian proposal on human cloning at the United Nations (UN); and (b) when did Cabinet subsequently decide to endorse the Costa Rican proposal on human cloning at the UN.

*174 **Senator Stott Despoja:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Ageing—

- (1) Will the Minister provide copies of any recommendations, advice or comments the department has received in the past 18 months regarding, or in response to, a proposal put forward by Belgium to the United Nations on the issue of 'reproductive' cloning of people and/or 'therapeutic' cloning of human embryos for research into cures for serious diseases.
- (2) Will the Minister provide copies of any recommendations, advice, comments or draft reports or recommendations prepared by the department regarding the review of Australia's national legislation on human reproductive cloning and/or human embryonic stem cell research.
- (3) (a) When is the review of the legislation on human reproductive cloning and human embryonic stem cell research expected to begin; and (b) does the Minister have responsibility for the review; if not, who does.

*175 **Senator Stott Despoja:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs—

- (1) Will the Minister provide copies of any recommendations, advice or comments received in the past 18 months regarding, or in response to, a proposal put forward by Belgium to the United Nations (UN) on the issue of 'reproductive' cloning of people and/or 'therapeutic' cloning of human embryos for research into cures for serious diseases.

- (2) When was the department made aware of the Cabinet decisions to support the Belgian proposal on human cloning and consequently the Costa Rican proposal on human cloning at the UN.

*177 **Senator Murray:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations—With respect to Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs) under the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Act that AWAs should be struck as a bargain between the employer and an individual employee; if not, what is the policy.
- (2) Is it the case that some AWAs are negotiated between the employer and the employee and therefore constitute a bargain.
- (3) (a) If an employer is offering an AWA on a 'take it or leave it basis', how can it be a bargain; (b) is it important for the Office of the Employment Advocate or the Act to distinguish between AWAs that are a bargain, and are therefore not imposed, and those that are not a bargain, where the risk of duress may be higher.
- (4) Does the Government believe that it is appropriate to ask an employee to sign an AWA determined by the employer without offering the employee the opportunity to negotiate its terms and conditions.
- (5) Are there any mechanisms in the Act to ensure that the employee has been given the opportunity to negotiate an AWA; if so, how are they enforced.
- (6) With reference to section 170VPA (1)(d) of the Act which essentially prohibits AWAs being signed under duress, by requiring that the 'employee [has] genuinely consented to making the AWA': (a) how is this section implemented and enforced; (b) are employees made aware of the section before they sign the AWA; (c) are employees informed how they go about informing authorities that they have indeed not genuinely consented to the AWA; and (d) what mechanisms are in place to ensure that employees are not being forced to sign their AWAs.
- (7) With reference to evidence given by Mr Hamberger at the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee estimates hearings on 6 November 2003 (*Hansard* p. 23) referring to identical AWAs: (a) does the Minister agree that large numbers of individual AWAs that are identical are in fact collective agreements because all those employees are on the same terms and conditions; (b) would it not be easier to just certify a collective agreement with those terms that are in the AWAs; and (c) what is the reason for not doing this.
- (8) Does the Government acknowledge that in some cases AWAs are being misused and an inquiry into AWAs would be useful to ensure that AWAs are being implemented in the spirit in which they were first introduced, that is, to give an employer and an employee the flexibility to negotiate terms and conditions that meet both their needs.

Notice given 13 December 2004

*179 **Senator Brown:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) Will the Minister provide a copy of the report, *Quantifying and valuing land use change for integrated catchment management evaluation in the Murray-Darling Basin 1996-97—2000-01*, by the the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

- (2) Why was the report removed from the CSIRO website.

Notice given 17 December 2004

- *181 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—For each of the past 5 years, what funds have been paid from Commonwealth programs to each state and territory for urban public transport.
- *182 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) With reference to the table of aviation safety investigations shown on page 66 of the department's annual report for 2003-04: For the year 2003-04, what is the breakdown, by type, for both accidents and incidents notified; that is, mechanical failure, separation, weather etc.
 - (2) (a) How many charges were pressed against operators and pilots as the result of investigations into both accidents and incidents; and (b) what was the outcome in each case.
- *183 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) With reference to page 84 of the department's annual report for 2003-04 and the claim that the Alice Springs to Darwin rail link 'will return as much as \$1.88 for every dollar spent on it': Has that estimate been revised in the light of operating experience; if so, what was the result; if not, are there plans to do so.
 - (2) What was the total cost of Commonwealth contributions by way of grants and loans for the project's construction and operation.
 - (3) (a) What assessment has been made of the financial performance of the railway in the first 6 months of operation, compared with projections; and (b) will the Minister provide a copy of that assessment; if not, why not.
- *184 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) (a) What specific capital works projects have been prepared and approved to date for expenditure from the \$450 million grant to the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC); and (b) what is the time line for the completion of each project.
 - (2) When is it expected that this investment will enable the goal of a 3 hour reduction in travel time between Brisbane and Sydney to be achieved.
 - (3) Of the \$250 million allocated in the 2002-03 financial year for upgrading interstate rail links: (a) what projects to date have been funded; (b) at what cost; (c) which projects have been completed; and (d) what funds remain uncommitted.
 - (4) What is the annual cost of leasing track from New South Wales.
 - (5) What provision exists within the agreement with New South Wales for the public tendering of capital works funded by ARTC.
- *185 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—Under Auslink how will priorities within the funds currently allocated to the Roads to Recovery Program be decided with respect to national, state and local government involvement.

- *186 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) (a) How many properties are owned by the Commonwealth at Badgerys Creek; (b) what was the original purchase price for each property; and (c) what is the combined current market value.
 - (2) What is the total annual cost of rates paid to local government.
 - (3) What plans exist for either further purchase or sale of any property.
 - (4) (a) How many properties are currently leased; and (b) what is the average term of tenancies.
 - (5) What discussions have been conducted with the New South Wales Government on the planning and sale of the land for future urban development.
- *187 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) What is the current maximum registration charge under the Federal Interstate Registration Scheme.
 - (2) When were these charges last reviewed and changed by ministers at the Australian Transport Advisory Council (ATAC).
 - (3) What work is currently under way to review: (a) the charges; and/or (b) the charging formula.
 - (4) Will this matter be considered by ministers at the next ATAC; if so, when and where will that meeting be held.
- *188 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) By electorate, what projects were funded under the Natural Disasters Mitigation Program in 2004 to date.
 - (2) How many have been completed.
 - (3) (a) What was the purpose of each; and (b) who was the key proponent.
 - (4) What are the timelines for applications and approvals.
 - (5) (a) Which projects were funded by loans and/or grants; and (b) in what proportion.
 - (6) By electorate, which project applications were rejected.
- *189 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) For how long has the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) existed.
 - (2) What was its original purpose.
 - (3) (a) What specific changes have been made to the operational guidelines since FRRR was established; and (b) why were the changes made and when.
 - (4) For each financial year since the establishment of FRRR, what was the amount of: (a) Commonwealth contributions to it; and (b) community private or other funds leveraged by FRRR.
 - (5) What is the process for making grants, including timelines, approval processes, sources of consultation and advice, type of project and grant limits, if any.

- (6) By electorate, since the inception of FRRR: (a) what grants have been made; (b) to whom and for what purpose was each grant made; (c) what was the amount of each grant; and (d) when was each grant approved and announced.
- (7) (a) What are the criteria for selection and approval of grants; (b) who makes the recommendations for a grant; and (c) who makes the final decision to approve a grant.
- (8) (a) Who undertook the review of the program; and (b) at what cost.
- (9) (a) What were the review's findings and recommendations; and (b) what action has been taken on each recommendation to date.

*190 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) As part of its role of monitoring productivity on the waterfront, what information is available to the department and its agencies on the movement of containers to and from stevedores' facilities by rail and road, storage times, waiting times for delivery, storage costs and cancelled pick-up slots.
- (2) What formal arrangements exist with the Australian Customs Service for monitoring the movement of containers through x-ray facilities, delays caused, costs and cancelled pick-up slots.
- (3) What research has been conducted by the department and its agencies into access by road and rail at each Australian container port, particularly at Port Botany.
- (4) What consultation has been conducted with the New South Wales Government on improving port access by road and rail to Port Botany.

*191 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) (a) What is the current annual budget of the Tamworth Aeronautical College; and (b) from what sources are funds provided.
- (2) What is the current level of cost recovery by way of fees and other contributions from industry.
- (3) Do any industry participants provide funds, scholarships or make other contributions in cash or in kind; if so, what are they.
- (4) How many students are currently enrolled at the end of 2004.
- (5) What is the current drop-out rate for 2004.
- (6) What capital contributions were made to establish the school by the Commonwealth and others.
- (7) (a) How was Tamworth chosen as the site; (b) what other sites were considered; (c) why were other sites deemed to be unsuitable; and (d) who made the final decision and when.
- (8) What other qualifications beyond courses completed at the school are required to obtain a licensed aircraft engineer's certificate.

*192 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to page 71 of the department's annual report for 2003-04 and the estimated cost reduction of \$133.3 million flowing from transport programs: (a) who estimated those savings; (b) how much has been saved in each program; and (c) what was the accounting methodology used to quantify this savings result.

*193 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) By electorate, what projects were approved in each of the past 2 years under the Regional Flood Mitigation Program; and (b) what was the cost of each project.
- (2) Which approved projects have not yet been completed.
- (3) What was the purpose of each approved project.
- (4) What are the program's timelines for applications and approvals.
- (5) By electorate, which applications were rejected.

*194 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—With reference to the Federation Fund:

- (1) By electorate: (a) what projects have been funded over the life of the Fund; and (b) what was the cost of each project.
- (2) (a) How many projects have received supplementary funding beyond the original estimate; and (c) what was the reason in each case.
- (3) By electorate, how many applications have been rejected to date.
- (4) What funds remain uncommitted in the Fund.
- (5) By electorate: (a) which approved project proposals have been cancelled; and (b) what was the reason in each case.
- (6) (a) What evaluation has been conducted of each completed project against the selection criteria; and (b) what was the result in relation to each project.

Notice given 20 December 2004

Senator O'Brien: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos *195-*201)—Has Primary Energy Limited sought funding or other assistance from any department or agency for which the Minister is responsible in connection with the company's ethanol project at Gunnedah; if so, will the Minister provide details including: (a) date; (b) amount of funding or other assistance sought; (c) relevant departmental or agency program from which funding or other assistance was sought; and (d) funding or other assistance provided or currently under consideration.

*195 Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services

*197 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

*200 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

*201 Minister for the Environment and Heritage

*202 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) On what date were media statements issued by the Honourable De-Anne Kelly MP in her capacity as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Regional Services and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Trade removed from the department's website.
- (2) Who ordered Ms Kelly's media statements to be removed.
- (3) Will the Minister provide copies of all statements issued by Ms Kelly in her capacity as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Regional Services and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Trade.

*203 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—With reference to the Greenhouse Gas Abatement Program:

- (1) On what date were expressions of interest and/or applications first sought under round one of the program.
- (2) Did Primary Energy Limited lodge an expression of interest and/or project proposal under round one; if so, on what date(s).
- (3) What was the closing date for lodgement of expressions of interest.
- (4) What was the closing date for lodgement of project proposals.
- (5) How many project proposals were lodged.
- (6) On what date were successful projects announced.
- (7) What projects were funded under this round.
- (8) For each successful project from round one of the program, will the Minister provide: (a) the amount of funding; (b) a brief description of the project; and (c) a report on progress.
- (9) On what date were expressions of interest and/or applications sought under round two of the program.
- (10) Did Primary Energy Limited lodge an expression of interest and/or project proposal under round two; if so, on what date(s).
- (11) What was the closing date for lodgement of expressions of interest.
- (12) What was the closing date for lodgement of project proposals.
- (13) How many project proposals were lodged.
- (14) On what date were successful projects announced.
- (15) What projects were funded under this round.
- (16) For each successful project from round two of the program, will the Minister provide: (a) the amount of funding; (b) a brief description of the project; and (c) a report on progress.
- (17) On what date were expressions of interest and/or applications sought under round three of the program.
- (18) Has Primary Energy Limited lodged an expression of interest and/or project proposal under round three; if so, on what date(s).
- (19) What was the closing date for lodgement of expressions of interest.
- (20) What was the closing date for lodgement of project proposals.
- (21) How many project proposals have been lodged.
- (22) Did the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) publish advice on their website that round three assessments would be completed and forwarded to Ministers in mid-2004 for a final decision on round three recipients.
- (23) Do the published round three guidelines state that successful projects will be announced before the end of the 2003-04 financial year.
- (24) On what date were round three assessments completed.
- (25) On what date did the AGO provide a shortlist to relevant Ministers of projects that meet program criteria to the highest degree.

*205 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to the Namoi Valley Structural Adjustment Package:

- (1) (a) What expressions of interest and/or applications have been received seeking funding under the Namoi Valley Structural Adjustment Package; and (b) for each application, will the Minister provide: (i) the date of the application, (ii) the amount of funding sought, (iii) the name of the proponent, and (iv) the nature of the project.
- (2) (a) What funding has been announced under the Namoi Valley Structural Adjustment Package; and (b) for each announcement, will the Minister provide: (i) the date of the announcement, (ii) the form of the announcement, (iii) details of the proponent, (iv) a detailed project description, and (v) the funding announced.
- (3) (a) What funding has been paid to each successful project; and (b) for each project, what job outcomes can be attributed to it.

*206 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to the Commonwealth's commitment of \$20 million for regional structural adjustment assistance in the Namoi Valley through proposals which promote future growth of the region, diversify industry and generate long-term employment:

- (1) What total funding under the Namoi Valley Structural Adjustment Package has been: (a) announced; and (b) expended.
- (2) Did the Regional Partnerships program, launched by the Minister on 26 June 2003, amalgamate the Namoi Valley Structural Adjustment Package with other regional development programs.
- (3) How was the administration of the Namoi Valley Structural Adjustment Package affected by the amalgamation.
- (4) Did the Namoi Valley Structural Adjustment Package guidelines and assessment procedures remain in operation beyond 1 July 2003; if so, did the guidelines and assessment procedures for Regional Solutions, Regional Assistance, Rural Transaction Centres, Dairy Regional Assistance and the structural adjustment programs for the Wide Bay-Burnett, Weipa and the South-West Forests region of Western Australia also remain in operation post-amalgamation under the Regional Partnerships program.

*207 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Will the Minister provide details of all additions, omissions and amendments to project details published on the Regional Partnerships grant database at www.regionalpartnerships.gov.au since 9 October 2004.
- (2) Where project details have been omitted or amended, will the Minister provide an explanation.

*208 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Why was the department's annual report not tabled in the Senate by 31 October 2004.
- (2) On what date: (a) did the Minister and/or his office first become aware that the deadline for laying the report before the Parliament would not be met; (b) did the department write to the Clerk of the Senate advising of the delay; (c) was a proof version of the annual report presented to the Minister; and (d) was the annual report provided to the Senate for tabling.
- (3) What action has the Minister taken to ensure that the department complies with the tabling deadline in the future.

- *209 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to the Minister's claim on 14 December 2004 that 15 Regional Partnerships assessments have been subject to 'Ministerial alteration' and 'some of them have been altered up or down': Will the Minister provide details of all assessments subject to 'Ministerial alteration', including: (a) the name of the project; (b) the name of the proponent; (c) the details of the alteration; (d) the final outcome of the assessment; (e) the nature of ministerial involvement; and (f) the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary responsible for the alteration.
- *210 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to the dispatch of letters concerning the Honourable De-Anne Kelly's MP signature notifying details of Regional Partnerships grants to stakeholders and posted on or after 26 October 2004, and the advice by Ms Kelly to the House of Representatives on 8 December 2004 that 'copies are on the relevant files' in the office of the Mr John Cobb MP:
- (1) Will the Minister provide details of all such correspondence, including: (a) recipient; (b) date signed; (c) date date-stamped; (d) date appearing on date-stamp; (e) date posted; (f) name of project; (g) size of grant; (h) date project approved; and (i) nature of correspondence.
 - (2) Will the Minister provide copies of all correspondence; if not, why not.
- *211 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—
- (1) What alleged breaches of the *Guide on Key Elements of Ministerial Responsibility* (December, 1998) have been brought to the attention of the Prime Minister and/or his office since its inception.
 - (2) In each case: (a) who was the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary responsible for the alleged breach; (b) what was the nature of the alleged breach; (c) on what date did the Prime Minister and/or his office become aware of the alleged breach; (d) what was the source of information about the alleged breach; (e) how did the Prime Minister investigate the alleged breach; (f) if the Prime Minister did not investigate the alleged breach, why not; (g) what finding did the Prime Minister make in relation to the alleged breach, and on what date did the Prime Minister make the finding; and (h) what action, if any, did the Prime Minister take, and on what date did the Prime Minister take such action.

Notice given 21 December 2004

- *214 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to the failure to complete the quarantine infrastructure upgrade at Melbourne Airport as reported on page 75 of the department's annual report for 2003-04:
- (1) Will the Minister provide a detailed explanation for the failure to complete the project.
 - (2) When will the upgrade be completed.
 - (3) What additional costs, if any, will result from the delay.
- *215 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) Why does the department's annual report for 2003-04 note that the \$34.3 million cost of the Bass Strait Passenger Vehicle Equalisation Scheme for 2003-04 was 'slightly more than expected', while also noting

that the cost of the scheme was 11.9 per cent below the revised budget estimate.

- (2) If the cost of the scheme for 2003-04 was below expectations, why was the cost below expectations.
- (3) If the cost of the scheme was above expectations, why was the cost above expectations.

***216 Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) By electorate: (a) what Federal Road Safety Black Spot Program ('Black Spot') projects were funded in the 2003-04 and 2004-05 financial years; and (b) what was the cost of each.
- (2) By electorate: (a) what 'Black Spot' projects were announced during the recent election campaign; (b) on what date were they announced; and (c) by whom were they announced.
- (3) Were media releases for 'Black Spot' funding announcements prepared by the department; if so: (a) by whom; and (b) at what cost in each of the past 2 years.
- (4) Which projects remain uncompleted as at 31 December 2004.
- (5) What balance of funds remains uncommitted prior to absorption into Auslink.

Senator Bishop: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos *217-*235)—With reference to the arrangement between the Commonwealth and Qantas Business Travel for the provision of air travel booking services to the Commonwealth, what steps have been taken to ensure that departmental personnel travel with the air carrier which provides the 'best fare on the day' as quoted by Qantas Business Travel.

- *217 Minister for Finance and Administration
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*236 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister for Finance and Administration—

- (1) With reference to the article 'Plane trouble delays possibly grounds Deputy PM' which appeared in the *Australian* on 20 December 2004: (a) is Qantas Business Travel the sole provider of air travel booking services to the Commonwealth; (b) when did this arrangement take effect; (c) when will the arrangement expire; (d) was the arrangement put to open tender; if not, why not; (e) which other providers expressed an interest in providing air travel booking services to the Commonwealth; and (f) how much has the Commonwealth paid Qantas Business Travel for the provision of air travel booking services for each financial year since the arrangement took effect.
- (2) With reference to the negotiation of the arrangement between the Commonwealth and Qantas Business Travel for the provision of air travel booking services to the Commonwealth: (a) who negotiated the arrangement on behalf of the Commonwealth and who provided final approval of the arrangement; (b) when and where did the Minister receive representations from the Deputy Prime Minister in relation to the negotiation of this arrangement; (c) what was the outcome of those representations; (d) were records of those representations kept; if so, will the Minister provide the records; if not, why not; (e) what documentation or contract records of the arrangement between the Commonwealth and Qantas Business Travel exist and will the Minister provide the documentation; if not, why not; (f) what provisions in the agreement ensure that Qantas Business Travel always provides the Commonwealth with quotes based on the 'best fare on the day'; and (g) what sanctions apply should it fail to do so.

Notice given 22 December 2004

Senator O'Brien: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos *237-*238)—

- (1) Which Regional Partnerships program funding announcements were submitted to the department for costing pursuant to the Charter of Budget Honesty during the 2004 election caretaker period.
- (2) For each case: (a) what are the details of the Regional Partnerships funding announcement including the amount of funding; and (b) on what date were the details submitted.
- (3) On what date was a media statement released by the Secretary of the department (or Secretaries) informing the public of the costing request, consistent with the Charter of Budget Honesty Costing of Election Commitment Guidelines jointly issued by the Secretary of the Department of the Treasury and the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration in 2004 (the guidelines).
- (4) If no media statement was released, why not.
- (5) If a media statement was released, will the Minister provide a copy; if not, why not.
- (6) Did the Secretary of the department (or Secretaries) seek further information from the Prime Minister to facilitate accurate costing, as provided in the guidelines; if so: (a) on what date; (b) what further information was sought; and (c) what was the Prime Minister's response.
- (7) (a) On what date were costings related to the announcement released; and (b) will the Minister provide a copy of the relevant findings; if not, why not.

- (8) If the findings were not released, did the Secretary of the department (or Secretaries) release a media statement informing the public that a policy costing was not possible; if so, will the Minister provide a copy of the media statement; if not, why not.

- (9) If no media statement was released, why not.

*237 Minister representing the Treasurer

*238 Minister for Finance and Administration

*239 **Senator Bishop:** To ask the Minister representing the Treasurer—

- (1) Was Mr John Phillips AO re-appointed Chairman of the Foreign Investment Review Board on 24 April 2002 for a further term of 5 years.
- (2) Is Mr Phillips also Chairman of the Australian Gas Light Company (AGL).
- (3) Has Mr Phillips made a formal declaration of his pecuniary interests; if so: (a) when; (b) in what form; and (c) to whom was the declaration made.
- (4) Is the Minister aware: (a) that in 1999, Western Power and AGL invested in a 360 kilometre gas pipeline and a power station to supply gas and electricity to the Windimurra vanadium project; (b) that in April 2004, Xstrata Plc decided to permanently close the Windimurra mine; and (c) of any effect the mine closure has had on AGL's investment in the gas pipeline project.
- (5) With reference to the article 'Xstrata bid to test Costello's resolve' appearing in the *Australian Financial Review* on 20 December 2004: (a) what representations has the Minister had from the Prime Minister in relation to Xstrata Plc's bid for WMC Resources Limited; (b) what form did those representations take, and when did they occur; (c) what representations has the Minister had from the Minister for Finance and Administration in relation to Xstrata Plc's bid for WMC Resources Limited; (d) what form did those representations take, and when did they occur; (e) is the Minister aware of allegations that Mr Marc Rich, who was indicted in a United States federal court for evading more than \$48 million in taxes in 1983, is connected with Xstrata Plc; and (f) what investigations has the Treasurer undertaken to determine the extent of Mr Rich's connection with Xstrata Plc.
- (6) Is the Minister satisfied that Mr Rich is a fit and proper person to potentially have a significant interest in or influence over WMC Resources Limited and therefore the Olympic Dam uranium mine.
- (7) Is the Minister aware of allegations by the Director of Central Intelligence's Special Advisor for Strategy regarding Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction Programs, Mr Charles Duelfer, that Xstrata Plc had been involved in the Iraq 'oil for food scandal'; if so: (a) what investigations has the Minister made of these allegations; and (b) what has been the outcome of those investigations.
- (8) Is the Minister aware of allegations by Global Witness that Xstrata Plc and Mr Rich had been involved in providing oil-backed loans to the Angolan Government; if so: (a) what investigations has the Minister made of these allegations; and (b) what has been the outcome of those investigations.
- (9) Is the Minister aware of concerns that the Commonwealth will receive up to \$100 million per year less in taxation in the event Xstrata Plc is successful in its takeover bid for WMC Resources Limited; if so: (a) what investigations has the Minister made of these concerns; and (b) what has been the outcome of those investigations.

- (10) With reference to the article 'WA taxpayers in cold as mine fate is sealed' appearing in the *West Australian* of 25 March 2004, is the Minister aware of the statement in that article that 'Xstrata is the world's biggest producer of vanadium and said in February last year that mothballing Windimurra would put "upward pressure" on vanadium prices'.
- (11) (a) What investigations has the Minister made of these and or other allegations of market manipulation and price control by Xstrata Plc, and what has been the outcome of those investigations; (b) if no investigations have been made, why not.
- (12) Have any other investigations been conducted into Xstrata Plc with respect to taxation matters, foreign exchange, trade practices, or corporate law in Australia; if so, what are the details in each case.

*240 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) By state and territory, which isolated communities are supported by the Remote Air Services Subsidy Scheme (RASS) in the 2004-05 financial year.
- (2) For the 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 financial years: (a) which communities have made application to the RASS but were not accepted for admission; (b) which of these communities met the criteria for admission but were not admitted due to budget constraints; and (c) which communities have been admitted to the RASS by the Minister despite not meeting criteria for admission
- (3) (a) For the 2002-03 and 2003-04 financial years, how many communities were supported by the RASS; and (b) how many communities are supported in the 2004-05 financial year.
- (4) With reference to the 2004-05 RASS budget announcement, how many communities will be supported by the scheme in the 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 financial years.
- (5) Was the tender process for the selection of RASS operators that commenced in May 2004 completed by 30 June 2004; if not: (a) why not; (b) is it the case that operators' contracts ended on 30 June 2004; (c) when was the tender completed; (d) which operators now hold the contracts; and (e) what is the term of those contracts.

*241 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Has the department provided the Minister with advice on options for responding to the report of the House of Representatives' Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services, *Regional Aviation and Island Transport Services: Making Ends Meet*, tabled on 1 December 2003.
- (2) Why has the Minister failed to deliver a formal response to this bi-partisan report despite the passage of more than 12 months.

*242 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to the claim on page 81 of the department's annual report for 2003-04 that the Roads to Recovery program has created Indigenous employment: by location, what Indigenous employment outcomes can be attributed to the program since its inception.

- *243 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) On what date did Airservices Australia's current review of pricing arrangements for airport control towers commence.
 - (2) When will the review findings be announced.
 - (3) What stakeholders have been consulted.
 - (4) Has a draft report been presented to the Minister and/or his office; if so, on what date.
 - (5) By airport, what subsidies were paid to airports under the scheme in the 2003-04 financial year.
- *244 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) Which air operators receive payments under the Payment Scheme for Airservices Australia's Enroute Charges program.
 - (2) What is the outcome of the client satisfaction survey undertaken in October 2004.
 - (3) Is this survey part of a wider review of the program; if so: (a) who is undertaking the review; (b) what is the purpose of the review; and (c) when will the review findings be announced.
- *245 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to the cost of regional development policy advice for the 2003-04 financial year as reported on page 103 of the department's annual report for 2003-04: why did the actual cost exceed the budget estimate by 70.5 per cent.
- *246 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) What Commonwealth funds have been expended on the Bert Hinkler Hall of Aviation Museum in Bundaberg, Queensland.
 - (2) (a) For what purposes have those funds been expended; and (b) by financial year, from which programs have those funds been sourced.
- *247 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—Why did expenditure on regional flood mitigation in the 2003-04 financial year fall 52.1 per cent short of the budget estimate, as reported on page 103 of the department's annual report for 2003-04.
- *248 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) On what date did the Council of Australian Governments agree to establish the Regional Development Council.
 - (2) On what dates has: (a) the Regional Development Council met; and (b) the Standing Committee on Regional Development met.
- *249 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) What was the nature and duration of the official departmental visits to Norfolk Island in September 2003, October 2003 and March 2004 as reported on page 106 of the department's annual report for 2003-04.

- (2) For each official visit: (a) which officers participated and in what capacity; and (b) what was the cost of each visit.

*250 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to the Commonwealth Regional Information Service (CRIS), launched on 1 August 2002:

- (1) (a) By year, what is the total cost of the CRIS call centre operation in the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date; (b) will the Minister provide a breakdown of the costs; and (c) what is the budgeted cost of the call centre operation in the 2004-05 financial year.
- (2) By year, how many calls has the CRIS 1800 number received in the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date.
- (3) (a) By year, what total costs have been incurred in relation to the production and distribution of the Commonwealth Regional Information Directory (CRID) in the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date; (b) will the Minister provide a breakdown of the costs; and (c) what is the budgeted cost for production and distribution in the 2004-05 financial year.
- (4) (a) By year, how many copies of the CRID have been distributed in the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date; and (b) what total number of copies are expected to be distributed in the 2004-05 financial year.
- (5) (a) By year, what total costs have been incurred in relation to the production and distribution of the quick reference guide known as the Commonwealth Regional Information Book (CRIB) in the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date; (b) will the Minister provide a breakdown of the costs including design, printing and postage; and (c) what is the budgeted cost for production and distribution in the 2004-05 financial year.
- (6) (a) By year, how many copies of the CRIB have been distributed in each of the following financial years: (i) 2002-03, (ii) 2003-04, and (iii) 2004-05 to date, by year; and (b) what total number of copies are expected to be distributed in the 2004-05 financial year.
- (7) With reference to the household distribution of the CRIB, what information source was used to identify households.
- (8) (a) What is the total cost of the CRIS media campaign in the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date; (b) will the Minister provide a breakdown of the costs including production, and advertising by television, radio and print media; and (c) what is the budgeted cost for media in the 2004-05 financial year.
- (9) Does the firm Singleton Ogilvy and Mather maintain the contract to provide the CRIS advertising campaign; if so, what are the terms of the contract; if not, which advertising firm holds the contract and what are the terms of the contract.
- (10) (a) By year, what is the total cost of the CRIS travelling show in the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date; (b) will the Minister provide a breakdown of the costs; and (c) what is the budgeted cost for the travelling show in the 2004-05 financial year.
- (11) (a) By year, what is the total cost of production and distribution of CRIS community information stands in the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date; (b) will the Minister provide a breakdown of the costs; and

- (c) what is the budgeted cost for community information stands in the 2004-05 financial year.
- (12) Which community and/or business organisations have received community information stands.
- (13) (a) By year, what is the total cost of maintaining the regional entry point Internet portal managed by the department in the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date; (b) will the Minister provide a breakdown of the costs; and (c) what is the budgeted cost for maintenance of the portal in the 2004-05 financial year.

*251 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to the claim on page 111 of the department's annual report for 2003-04 that a Regional Partnerships program grant funded some operating costs of the heritage railway from Beaudesert to Bethania in Queensland:

- (1) Can the Minister confirm the accuracy of departmental evidence given to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee during the Budget estimates on 27 May 2004 (*Hansard* p. 102) that that grant enabled Beaudesert Rail to 'pay off its creditors—it had amassed an unsustainable bundle of creditors—and to provide it with some supplementary operating funds for the remainder of the financial year'.
- (2) (a) On what dates were Regional Partnerships payments made to Beaudesert Rail; and (b) on each occasion, what was the amount of the payment.
- (3) (a) How much of the \$660 000 Regional Partnerships grant to Beaudesert Rail was directed to paying creditors; and (b) how much was directed to operating costs.
- (4) Will the Minister provide detailed advice of creditors and monies owing at the time of the grant decision; if not, why not.
- (5) When did the Minister and/or the department first become aware that Beaudesert Rail had 'amassed an unsustainable bundle of creditors'.
- (6) (a) On what date did the Commonwealth commence discussions with Beaudesert Rail on the provision of a loan to assist its operations; (b) on what date did the Commonwealth offer Beaudesert Rail a loan; (c) what was the amount of the loan offer and the proposed interest rate and term of repayment; (d) what role did the Minister and/or the department play in the consideration and negotiation of the loan proposal; and (e) what program was the proposed source of loan funds.
- (7) (a) On what date: (a) was a Regional Partnerships funding application for the Beaudesert Rail project submitted; and (b) was advice sought from the local Area Consultative Committee.
- (8) (a) When did the Minister approve the conversion of the loan to a grant under the Regional Partnerships program; (b) what was the financial position of Beaudesert Rail at this time; and (c) what due diligence preceded the decision to convert the loan to a grant.
- (9) (a) Do the Regional Partnerships guidelines provide that the Government cannot fund retrospective costs in relation to a project; and (b) does the department define retrospective funding as funding to meet any expenditure, or commitment to expenditure, incurred prior to a Regional Partnerships funding agreement being signed by both parties.

- (10) On what date was the funding agreement in relation to the Beaudesert Rail project signed.
- (11) Does the funding of creditors under the Regional Partnerships program constitute retrospective funding; if so: (a) did the funding of the Beaudesert Rail project to pay creditors constitute a breach of the program rules; and (b) does the Minister accept responsibility for the breach.
- (12) On what date was: (a) the funding agreement for Beaudesert Rail signed by both parties; (b) a satisfactory independent audit of accounts in accordance with the Government's requirements undertaken; and (c) the Government provided with evidence of an acquittal of expenditure against the approved budget for the project.
- (13) Has Beaudesert Rail produced evidence of satisfactory performance and achievement of all project milestones.
- (14) What outcomes can the Minister attribute to the allocation of \$660 000 in Regional Partnerships grant money to the Beaudesert Rail project.
- (15) Who determined that the allocation of Regional Partnerships funding to Beaudesert Rail should be featured in the department's annual report.

*252 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to the 2004-05 Regional Partnerships client satisfaction survey reported on page 112 of the department's annual report for 2003-04:

- (1) Who will conduct the survey.
- (2) What is the survey timetable.
- (3) Which stakeholders will be invited to participate in the survey.
- (4) What is the budgeted cost of the survey.

*253 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) What role did the department play in assessing the relative needs of the Western Queensland and Western New South Wales and Northern Rivers and North Coast of New South Wales regions ahead of their announced inclusion in the Sustainable Regions Program.
- (2) What objective criteria were used to assess the relative needs of the two new regions.
- (3) Were the needs of other regions assessed by the department for possible inclusion in the Sustainable Regions Program; if so, which regions; if not, why not.
- (4) What role did the department play in establishing the boundaries of the two new regions under the Sustainable Regions Program.
- (5) By year, what sustainable regions funds will be allocated to each region over the next 4 years.
- (6) (a) What action has the Minister taken to establish a sustainable regions advisory committee in each region; and (b) if applicable, what members have been appointed to each advisory committee.
- (7) What deadline has the Minister set for the establishment of local development priorities by each advisory committee.

*254 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Did the Minister authorise the publication of media statements carrying The Nationals' party logo on the publicly-funded Sustainable Regions website, www.sustainableregions.gov.au; if so, when; if not, who authorised the publication of these party-political media statements.
- (2) (a) What guidelines apply to the publication of party-political material by the department; and (b) is the publication of party-political media statements on the Sustainable Regions website consistent with these guidelines.

Notice given 23 December 2004

*255 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources—

- (1) For each of the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date, what amount has been expended on ethanol production subsidies.
- (2) For each company that has received a subsidy: (a) what subsidy has been paid; (b) what volume of subsidised ethanol has been produced; (c) what feedstock has been used to produce the subsidised ethanol; (d) where are the company's ethanol production facilities located; (e) has the subsidy resulted in increased production; if so, can this increased production be quantified; and (f) how has the Commonwealth audited the subsidised production.

*256 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads—

- (1) Is it the case that budget cuts forced the National Capital Authority to give the National Christmas Tree to the Government of the Australian Capital Territory; if not, what was the reason.
- (2) On what date was the decision made to give the National Christmas Tree away.
- (3) Which elected representatives were consulted on the decision to give the tree away.
- (4) Who made the decision.
- (5) On what date was the Minister informed.
- (6) Is the Minister aware that a former Minister for Territories, Senator Ian Macdonald, said the significance of lighting the National Christmas Tree goes beyond Canberra and out to the entire nation, describing it as important in the ongoing quest to promote the national capital as a warm and friendly place.
- (7) Is the Minister aware that the Governor-General lit the tree in 2003 and said it symbolised the spirit of giving and encouraged Australians to help needy members of our community.
- (8) On what date was the Governor-General informed that the National Christmas Tree would not be erected outside Parliament House in 2004.
- (9) On what dates has the National Christmas Tree been lit in previous years.

*257 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations—With reference to the Special Employee Entitlement Scheme for Ansett Group Employees (SEESA):

- (1) What has been paid under SEESA to former Ansett employees.
- (2) What entitlements, other than SEESA, are yet to be paid to former Ansett employees.
- (3) (a) Will the Minister provide a copy of the business rules under which SEESA operates; and (b) have these rules been varied since inception; if so, how and when.
- (4) Did the department specify targets for timeliness of payments from SEES Pty Ltd to the Ansett Administrators and payments from the Ansett Administrators to former Ansett employees; if so: (a) what targets; and (b) how were these targets set; if not, why not.
- (5) Will the Minister provide full details of the timeliness of: (a) SEESA payments to the Ansett Administrators; and (b) SEESA payments through the Ansett Administrators to former Ansett employees.
- (6) Will the Minister provide documented evidence of the department's role in the selection of the scheme's financier.
- (7) Will the Minister provide full details, by financial year, of the loan facility obtained by SEES Pty Ltd including: (a) all amounts drawn down on the loan facility; (b) the date and purpose of each drawdown; (c) all fees, charges and interest paid in relation to the loan; and (d) the term and repayment schedule of the loan.
- (8) Will the Minister provide, by financial year, full details of costs incurred by the department in relation to the establishment and operation of SEESA.
- (9) Will the Minister provide, by financial year, full details of any payments (including the source of the funds) made to the department in relation to the establishment and operation of SEESA.

*258 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations—With reference to the Special Employee Entitlement Scheme for Ansett Group Employees:

- (1) Will the Minister provide the definition of 'community standard' in relation to entitlements under this scheme.
- (2) On what basis was the 'community standard' determined.
- (3) Since 1996, to which other Commonwealth programs has the 'community standard' applied.
- (4) Was the same 'community standard' relevant to the Commonwealth's assistance to former employees of National Textiles; if not, what standard was relevant and why.
- (5) How often is the 'community standard' reviewed against economic, industrial and social changes over time.

*259 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to the Special Employee Entitlement Scheme for Ansett Group Employees and the corresponding ticket levy administered by the department: does the Minister stand behind his statement on 28 September 2001 that 'The Government has imposed the levy to pay for the entitlements of Ansett employees'.

*260 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) What is the amount of the surplus collected from the Ansett ticket levy.

- (2) (a) For what purpose or purposes has the surplus been expended; and
(b) will the Minister provide precise expenditure details, including the amount, by expenditure item.

*261 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to the Special Employee Entitlement Scheme for Ansett Group Employees (SEESA): Will the Minister provide, by financial year, full details of: (a) any costs incurred by the department in relation to the establishment and operation of SEESA and the administration of the Ansett ticket levy; and (b) any payments (including the source of the funds) made to the department in relation to the establishment and operation of SEESA and the administration of the Ansett ticket levy.

Senator O'Brien: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos *262-*264)—

- (1) On what date did: (a) the Minister; (b) the Minister's office; and (c) the department, become aware of the meeting of former Ansett employees on 27 November 2004 to discuss unpaid entitlements.
- (2) In each case in (1) what was the source of information.
- (3) Did: (a) the Minister; (b) the Minister's office; and (c) the department, attend the meeting to address former Ansett employee concerns about outstanding employee entitlements.
- (4) In each case in (3) if not, why not.
- (5) On what date(s) has: (a) the Minister; (b) the Minister's office; and (c) the department, met with representatives of former Ansett employees to discuss the matter of outstanding employee entitlements.

*262 Minister representing the Prime Minister

*263 Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services

*264 Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

*265 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads—With reference to advice in the department's annual report for 2003-04 that selected crown leases on Norfolk Island will be transferred to freehold title in the 2004-05 financial year:

- (1) Which leases will be transferred.
- (2) How will the leases be selected.
- (3) What are the expected revenue implications.

*266 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads—

- (1) What are the terms of reference for the department's 2004-05 review of fees and charges associated with delivering services to Australia's territories.
- (2) Who will undertake the review.
- (3) What is the review timetable.
- (4) Will the current fees and charges regime remain in place until the review is concluded.
- (5) How will the department consult with stakeholders.
- (6) Which stakeholders will be consulted.
- (7) (a) By year and territory, what revenue associated with services to Australia's territories has the department derived in the financial years

2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date; and (b) by territory, what total revenue does the department expect to derive in the 2004-05 financial year.

Senator O'Brien: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos *267-*269)—With reference to the proposed new Immigration Reception and Processing Centre (IRPC) on Christmas Island:

- (1) (a) What is the current estimated total cost of construction including related costs; and (b) will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of the cost.
- (2) (a) What funds have been expended so far; and (b) will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of the cost by financial year.
- (3) Will the Minister provide a list of all contracts let for the construction phase of the project, including the successful tenderer.
- (4) On what date will: (a) the early works phase of the project be completed; (b) the main works phase of the contract commence; (c) the main works phase of the contract be completed; and (d) the IRPC be operational.
- (5) (a) What compensation was paid to Phosphate Resources Limited for the resumption of land for the IRPC; (b) on what date was this compensation paid; (c) who undertook the negotiations on behalf of the Commonwealth; (d) which Minister approved the compensation; and (e) what program was the source of the compensation funds.
- (6) (a) What consultants have been engaged in relation to the IRPC project; and (b) in each case, what was the nature of the consultancy, the term of the consultancy and the associated financial value.
- (7) (a) On what date did the Department of Finance and Administration assume responsibility for the project; (b) why did the Department of Finance and Administration assume responsibility for the project; and (c) what other IRPC construction projects did the Department of Finance and Administration manage prior to the transfer of responsibility for the IRPC project.
- (8) What role does the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs perform in relation to the project during planning and construction.
- (9) What role does the Department of Transport and Regional Services perform in relation to the project during planning and construction.
- (10) Have all contracts let for the construction phase of the project included local training and local business content; if so, will the Minister provide details; if not, why not.
- (11) Has the local training and local business involvement which formed part of the assessment criteria for the major works contract been consistent with evidence given by the Department of Finance and Administration to the Joint Standing Committee on Public Works on 31 October 2003; if so, will the Minister provide details; if not, why not.
- (12) Will local training and employment and local business involvement form part of the assessment criteria for the service contract for the operation of the IRPC; if not, why not.
- (13) Will the Christmas Island community have access to recreational and other facilities at the IRPC, subject to operational needs.

*267 Minister for Finance and Administration

*268 Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

*269 Minister representing the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads

- *271 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads—
- (1) By financial year, what funds have been provided to the Administrator of the Indian Ocean Territories for the development of an economic development strategy for Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
 - (2) What outcomes can be attributed to the funding.
- *272 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads—By financial year, and disaggregated to include salary, other remuneration, personal staff, accommodation, entertainment, travel and other costs, what are the costs associated with maintaining the Administrator of Norfolk Island in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date.
- *273 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads—By financial year, and disaggregated to include salary, other remuneration, personal staff, accommodation, entertainment, travel and other costs, what costs are associated with maintaining the Administrator of the Indian Ocean Territories in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date.
- *274 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads—
- (1) On what date: (a) was the appointment of the current Administrator of Norfolk Island announced; and (b) did the Administrator commence the appointment.
 - (2) What is the term of the Administrator's appointment.
 - (3) Will the Minister provide details, by financial year, of the Administrator's publicly-funded travel.
 - (4) (a) On what dates has the Administrator provided formal reports to the Minister; and (b) will the Minister provide copies of these reports; if not, why not.
- *275 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads—
- (1) On what date: (a) was the appointment of the current Administrator of the Indian Ocean Territories announced; and (b) did the Administrator commence the appointment.
 - (2) What is the term of the Administrator's appointment.
 - (3) Will the Minister provide details, by financial year, of the Administrator's publicly-funded travel.
 - (4) (a) On what dates has the Administrator provided formal reports to the Minister; and (b) will the Minister provide copies of these reports; if not, why not.
- *276 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads—
- (1) What are the names and terms of appointment of the members of the Christmas Island Casino Surveillance Authority.
 - (2) What costs have been associated with the authority in each of the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date.

- *277 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) What are the names and terms of appointment of the members of the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme Authority.
 - (2) What costs have been associated with the authority in the each of the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date.
- *278 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Prime Minister—On what date(s) has the Prime Minister visited: (a) Christmas Island; (b) the Cocos (Keeling) Islands; and (c) Norfolk Island.
- *279 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads—On what date was a proof version of the 2003-04 report on the operation of *the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* first presented to the Minister and/or his office.
- *280 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) What was the cost of the study of Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal activities funded under the Regional and Rural Development Grants program and completed in 2003-04.
 - (2) Who undertook the study.
 - (3) Will the Minister provide a copy of the study; if not, why not.
 - (4) When did the department complete its review of the study's findings.
 - (5) Will the Minister provide a copy of the department's review; if not, why not.
 - (6) What action has been taken by the department based on the study's findings.
- *281 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads—
- (1) What departmental branches report to the Minister.
 - (2) What portfolio agencies and bodies report to the Minister.
 - (3) For which departmental functions and programs does the Minister exercise administrative responsibility.
- *282 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—For each of the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date, how many departmental staff have been located at regional offices in: (a) Darwin; (b) Perth; (c) Adelaide; (d) Hobart; (e) Bendigo; (f) Wollongong; (g) Orange; (h) Newcastle; (i) Townsville; (j) Longreach; (k) the Jervis Bay territory; (l) Norfolk Island; (m) Christmas Island; and (n) the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
- *283 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With reference to the department's involvement in the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Indigenous trial site in the Far East Kimberly:
- (1) (a) What funds have been expended in relation to this trial by the department; and (b) will the Minister identify the expenditure by activity and financial year.

- (2) On what dates: (a) has the Secretary visited each of the five communities located within the trial site; and (b) have other officers of the department visited each of the five communities located within the trial site.
- (3) What outcomes can be attributed to the department's involvement in the COAG trials.

*284 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Does the department's workplace diversity program seek to ensure the department attracts and retains a diverse range of people with a focus on Indigenous employment.
- (2) In what year was this workplace diversity program launched.
- (3) How many Indigenous staff did the department employ in the financial years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 in the following classifications: (a) Senior Executive Service Level (SES) 3; (b) SES 2; (c) SES 1; (d) Executive Level (EL) 2; (e) EL 1; (f) Australian Public Service Level (APS) 6; (g) APS 5; (h) APS 4; (i) APS 3; (j) graduate; (k) APS 2; (l) APS 1; (m) trainee; and (n) other.

*285 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Which of the following measures has the department adopted to ensure it attracts and retains a diverse range of people with a focus on Indigenous employment: (a) an Indigenous employment strategy; (b) special employment measures limiting employment opportunities only to Indigenous applicants; (c) identified positions for Indigenous staff; (d) participation in the National Indigenous Cadetship Program; (e) providing opportunities for Indigenous people to gain skills and experience under an agency-based Indigenous employment scheme; and (f) advertising employment opportunities in Indigenous media.
- (2) For each applicable measure: (a) what is the date of implementation; and (b) what outcomes can be attributed to the measure.

*286 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—(a) What grants have been made under the Regional and Rural Research Information and Data program in each of the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date; and (b) for each project, will the Minister provide details of the amount of the grant, the name of the proponent and the start and finish dates.

*287 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—(a) What grants have been made under the Regional and Rural Development Grant program in each of the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date; and (b) for each project, will the Minister provide details of the amount of the grant, the name of the proponent and the start and finish dates.

*288 **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.

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

- (1) Will the Minister provide a full list 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) Will the Minister provide a full list of the real property sold by, or on behalf of, the department in the 2002-03 and 2003-04 financial years, 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) Will the Minister provide a full list of the real property proposed to be sold by, or on behalf of, the department in the 2004-05 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) Will the Minister provide a full list 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 the 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.

*290 **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 Legislation 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.

*291 **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.

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

Senator O'Brien: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos *293-*296)—

- (1) On what date(s) 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.

*293 Minister representing the Prime Minister

*294 Minister representing the Minister for Trade

*295 Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs

*296 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

*297 **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(s) 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.

*298 **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(s) 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.

*299 **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, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date:

(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.

*300 **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; 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.

*301 **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) in 2003.
- (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; and (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 (UK) Government seeking assistance in the apprehension of the *Viarsa*; (b) what request did the Government make; (c) what response did the UK Government provide and when was it received; (d) what assistance did the UK Government provide; and (e) what total cost is payable to UK 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; and (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) What is the status of legal proceedings related to the investigation into the *Viarsa's* conduct in Australian waters; and (b) where is the vessel and its crew currently located.
- (27) What arrangements did the Government make 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) Was the cost of the *Viarsa* operation 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, was the operational plan for the 2003-04 financial year amended to account for the *Viarsa* operation.

*302 **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.
- (2) Will the Minister provide details of all such accreditation withdrawals for each of the following financial years 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date, including for each withdrawal: (a) the name of the company; (b) the reason for withdrawal; and (c) the consequential action by AQIS.
- (3) Will the Minister provide details of all such accreditation downgrades for each of the following financial years: 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date, including for each downgrade: (a) the name of the company; (b) the change in accreditation level; (c) the reason for downgrade; and (d) consequential action by AQIS.

*303 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—(a) Which countries have banned, suspended or varied

conditions of export for Australian live animals since 1996; and (b) in each case, will the Minister provide details of the ban, suspension or variation, including date of action and basis of action.

*304 **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) What was 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: (a) when was that order made; and (b) 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) (a) When was the Minister and/or his office and/or his department informed about the analysis findings; and (b) 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; and (c) if the salmon was ordered to be destroyed: (i) when was that order made, and (ii) when and how was it destroyed.

*305 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—Will the Minister provide details 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.

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

- (1) For each of the past 4 financial years, including 2004-05 to date, how many foreign fishing vessels (FFVs) were sighted inside Australia's Fishing Zone.
- (2) How many of those vessels were located in waters to the north of Australia.
- (3) In relation to the vessels that were located to the north of Australia: (a) on how many occasions was no action taken by Australian authorities; and (b) in each case, on what basis was no action taken.
- (4) How many of the FFVs were the subject of an administrative seizure.
- (5) (a) How many of the FFVs were towed or escorted to an Australian port; and (b) of those vessels: (i) how many were destroyed, (ii) how many had a bond posted, and (iii) how many crews were charged with an offence and prosecuted and in each case, what was the outcome of that legal process.

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

- (1) Has the Prime Minister's office had any involvement in the Government's response to legal claims against the Commonwealth by Mr Mark McMurtrie of New Italy, New South Wales; if so, what involvement has the Prime Minister's office had in relation to this matter.
- (2) Has the Prime Minister's office convened any meetings at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices in Sydney, or any other location, with Mr McMurtrie and/or any other party to discuss a resolution to Mr McMurtrie's claims; if so, for each meeting:
 - (a) when and at what time was the meeting held;
 - (b) what was discussed; and
 - (c) who was present.
- (3) Have members of the Prime Minister's office given to Mr McMurtrie, or any other party, orally or in writing, any undertakings in respect to the resolution of Mr McMurtrie's claims; if so:
 - (a) which staff member gave these undertakings; and
 - (b) in each case:
 - (i) what was the undertaking,
 - (ii) who received the undertaking,
 - (iii) when was the undertaking given, and
 - (iv) was the undertaking given orally or in writing, if orally:
 - (A) at what time, and
 - (B) how was it provided (i.e. telephone, meeting etc.), and if written, can a copy of the undertaking be provided; if not, why not.

- (4) Has the Prime Minister and/or his office received correspondence from third parties who are concerned about the conduct of the Prime Minister's office in relation to this matter; if so:
 - (a) what was the nature of the concerns expressed on each occasion; and
 - (b) can a copy of the correspondence be provided; if not, why not.
- (5) Is the Prime Minister aware of the obligations imposed on ministers by *A Guide on Key Elements of Ministerial Responsibility* (December 1998) with respect to the timely response to questions on notice.
- (6) Is the Prime Minister aware that a question placed on notice during the previous Parliament in precisely the same terms as this question lapsed unanswered after 210 days.

*308 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Human Services—

- (1) For each of the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date:
 - (a) how many editions of the publication *Footsteps* were published; (b) how many staff worked on its production; (c) what was the cost of producing the publication, including staff, production and distribution costs; (d) how many copies of each edition were printed and distributed; and (e) how was the magazine distributed.
- (2) Will the Minister provide a copy of the contract with the publishers of *Footsteps*, Text Pacific, be provided; if not, why not.

*309 **Senator O'Brien:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Human Services—

- (1) In what languages other than English does Centrelink produce its publications including payment guides.
- (2) In what Australian Indigenous languages does Centrelink produce the publications.
- (3) Does Centrelink produce an equivalent *Guide to Ethnic Naming Practices* for Australian Indigenous languages to assist staff to offer high quality service to Indigenous Australians; if so, can a copy be provided; if no guide is produced for staff, why not.

Notice given 10 January 2005

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

- (1) What is the current immigration status of Mr Peter Qasim, a refugee from Kashmir.
- (2) How long has Mr Qasim been held in detention.
- (3) Has there been an investigation into reports that Mr Qasim was raped while in jail in Perth; if so, what was the outcome; if not, why not.
- (4) What is Mr Qasim's mental health condition.
- (5) Has Mr Qasim attempted self harm; if so, what action has the Government taken to prevent further incidents.

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

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's bulletin 'Australia's babies: their health and wellbeing' identifies that,

despite reductions in the overall proportion of infant deaths from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), a higher proportion of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander infants continue to die from SIDS (16.6 per cent) than do other infants (9.3 per cent).

- (2) Given that campaigns to promote the established risk-reducing behaviours have been extremely effective in reducing the overall mortality from SIDS, what plans does the Government have to devise and evaluate innovative methods for delivering these messages and changing behaviour among Indigenous groups in order to reduce the tragically high number of deaths.

Notice given 17 January 2005

*312 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—Given reports that significant numbers of birds continue to die in tailings ponds in South Australia's Olympic Dam uranium mine:

- (1) Can the Minister confirm the numbers and species of birds, and any other animals, which annually perish in tailings ponds in South Australian mines.
- (2) Can the Minister confirm the numbers and species of birds, and any other animals, which annually perish in the tailings ponds of uranium mines in other states and territories.
- (3) Can the Minister confirm whether any species listed as threatened under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* may be at risk as a result of the existence of toxic tailings ponds in the vicinity of their habitats.
- (4) Can the Minister give an assessment of the effectiveness of mitigation efforts currently used, including deterrence of animals by shooting and strobe lighting.

*313 **Senator Allison:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—With reference to the recall on 28 April 2003 of products manufactured by Pan Pharmaceuticals: For each of the 62 serious adverse events occurring in individuals who consumed products for which Pan Pharmaceuticals was an approved manufacturer and that were reported in the 12 months prior to the Pan Pharmaceuticals recall, can the Adverse Drug Reactions Advisory Committee provide a copy of the individual printout from their database; if not, why not.

Notice given 21 January 2005

*314 **Senator Hutchins:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service—Can the Minister provide: (a) the directives, guidelines or other instructions issued by the Prime Minister and Cabinet for the procurement of transport services by the Commonwealth to either the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet or to other Commonwealth departments or agencies; (b) the date on which such contracts were agreed; (c) the entity which the Commonwealth has contracted with; and (d) the total costs of these contracts for the 2003-04 financial year.

Senator Hutchins: To ask the Ministers listed below (Question Nos *315-*317)—Can the Minister provide: (a) the directives, guidelines or other instructions issued by the department for the procurement of transport services to the department; (b) the date on which such contracts were agreed; (c) the entity which the Commonwealth has contracted with; and (d) the total costs of these contracts for the 2003-04 financial year.

*315 Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing

- *316 Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- *317 Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources
- *318 **Senator Hutchins:** To ask the Minister for Finance and Administration—Can the Minister provide: (a) the directives, guidelines or other instructions issued or developed by the department regarding the procurement of transport services by the Commonwealth for either the department or issued to other Commonwealth departments or agencies; (b) the date on which such contracts were agreed; (c) the entity which the Commonwealth has contracted with; and (d) the total costs of these contracts for the 2003-04 financial year.
- *319 **Senator Hutchins:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—Can the Minister provide: (a) the directives, guidelines or other instructions issued or developed by the Minister regarding the procurement of transport services by the Commonwealth for either the department or issued to other Commonwealth departments or agencies; (b) the date on which such contracts were agreed; (c) the entity which the Commonwealth has contracted with; and (d) the total costs of these contracts for the 2003-04 financial year.

Notice given 27 January 2005

- *320 **Senator Greig:** To ask the Minister for Family and Community Services—With reference to the answer to question on notice no. 53 in which the Minister advised in paragraph 2 that Centrelink has received information since April 1992 about individual customers paid a Dutch pension within the scope of the 1991 Agreement on Social Security between Australia and the Netherlands:
- (1) Can the Minister confirm whether these statements mean that Centrelink is able to ascertain which of its customers also receives a Dutch pension from the Sociale Verzekeringsbank within the scope of the 1991 Agreement; if so, is Centrelink able to cross reference details of the 11 952 Dutch pension recipients whose payments it has reviewed since October 2002 with that information to ascertain how many reviewed customers fell within the scope of the 1991 Agreement; if not, why not.
 - (2) Can the Minister now advise how many of the 11 952 Dutch pension recipients subject to review came within the scope of the 1991 Agreement.
 - (3) Would the specific information referred to in paragraph 2 of the answer, and general information referred to in paragraph 4 of the answer, have provided Centrelink with sufficient information to adjust payments to those Dutch pension recipients paid under the 1991 Agreement; if not, what specific additional information would have been required by Centrelink to properly assess individual Dutch pension recipients' entitlements.
 - (4) Can the Minister confirm whether an amnesty occurred at any time that allowed Dutch pension recipients to provide updated information to Centrelink without penalty; if so: (a) when did this amnesty occur; (b) how was the amnesty advertised; and (c) were individual Dutch pension recipients notified of the amnesty.

Notice given 31 January 2005

- *321 **Senator Hutchins:** To ask the President of the Senate—In relation to the process for the appointment of the Secretary, Department of Parliamentary Services:
- (1) When was the position advertised.
 - (2) What was the closing date for applications for the position.

- (3) How many applications were received by the closing date.
- (4) Of the applications received by the closing date, how many were from:
(a) male applicants; and (b) female applicants.
- (5) Of the applications received by the closing date, how many were from:
(a) employees or office holders of the Parliamentary Service; (b) employees or office holders of the Australian Public Service (APS); and (c) individuals outside either the Parliamentary Service or the APS.
- (6) Were any applications accepted or solicited after the closing date; if so, how many.
- (7) If applications were accepted or solicited after the closing date, can the same information be provided in respect of those applications as requested in (4) and (5) above.
- (8) Who prepared the shortlist of applicants to be interviewed.
- (9) Was the field of candidates discussed with or by the then Presiding Officers prior to interviews being held; if so, when and who was present.
- (10) If the field of candidates was discussed with or by the then Presiding Officers prior to interviews occurring, were their senior advisers present when that discussion took place.
- (11) When did interviews take place.
- (12) Who conducted the interviews.
- (13) Did the then Presiding Officers interview any applicants; if so, when and how many.
- (14) Were the then Presiding Officers' senior advisers present at those interviews; if so, why.

***322 Senator Hutchins:** To ask the President of the Senate—

- (1) In respect of the former Joint House Department, how many staff were employed in corporate services roles as at: (a) 30 June 2001; (b) 30 June 2002; and (c) 30 June 2003 (include departmental head and support staff, all staff involved in strategic planning and other staff not involved in direct service provision to the Parliament or visitors to the Parliament).
- (2) What were the classifications of those staff.
- (3) What was the average remuneration of each of those classifications, including superannuation, training costs and other on-costs.

***323 Senator Hutchins:** To ask the President of the Senate—

- (1) In respect of the former Department of the Parliamentary Reporting Staff, how many staff were employed in corporate services roles as at: (a) 30 June 2001; (b) 30 June 2002; and (c) 30 June 2003 (include departmental head and support staff, all staff involved in strategic planning and other staff not involved in direct service provision to the Parliament).
- (2) What were the classifications of those staff.
- (3) What was the average remuneration of each of those classifications, including superannuation, training costs and other on-costs.

***324 Senator Hutchins:** To ask the President of the Senate—

- (1) In respect of the former Department of the Parliamentary Library, how many staff were employed in corporate services roles as at: (a) 30 June 2001; (b) 30 June 2002; and (c) 30 June 2003 (include departmental head

and support staff, all staff involved in strategic planning and other staff not involved in direct service provision to the Parliament).

- (2) What were the classifications of those staff.
- (3) What was the average remuneration of each of those classifications, including superannuation, training costs and other on-costs.

*325 **Senator Boswell:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing—Recent public debate on abortion has been characterised by a wide range of proffered statistics and claims. Recognising that abortion is a matter for state law, but that the Commonwealth funds abortion procedures through Medicare, can the Minister provide the most detailed and recent information as set out below, to expedite an informed debate:

- (1) How many abortion procedures are carried out each year in Australia in the private and public health sectors in the different states and territories.
- (2) (a) Does the department have access to reliable information on the percentage of pregnancies that end in abortion in Australia; and (b) what is the department's estimate.
- (3) (a) Has the department access to reliable forecasts or predictions of the number of abortions likely in future years; and (b) what is the department's expectation of Medicare funding allocations required for abortion procedures in the next 10 years.
- (4) Has the department access to and, if so, can it provide a current statistical profile of Australian women who have an abortion – for example, information tabulated across age, income, married status, number of children, previous abortions, reason for procedure, geographical location, etc.
- (5) (a) How many Medicare providers provided abortions in the past year; and (b) how many public hospitals or centres carry out abortions.
- (6) (a) What is the market structure of the private abortion sector; and (b) can the department provide a numerical breakdown of the private operators according to number of abortions.
- (7) Are abortion clinics subject to any form of government accreditation relating to counselling and abortion procedures.
- (8) (a) How does the department define a 'late term abortion'; (b) how many late term abortions have been performed in Australia each year for the past 10 years; (c) how many providers of late term abortions are there for the same time period; and (d) what are the statistically significant reasons for late term abortions.
- (9) (a) Is there reputable research in the international medical/scientific literature linking women who have abortions with higher rates of mental illness or breast cancer; (b) has any research been done on this recently in Australia; if not, are there any plans to do so; and (c) is this claimed link a public health outcome which needs addressing; if so, what action is being considered.
- (10) (a) Can the Minister detail the recent history of Commonwealth funding provided to pregnancy counselling services; and (b) can this funding be broken down into services provided by the abortion clinic itself (or affiliated groups) and those provided by 'pro-life' groups and those provided by independent services.

- (11) (a) Has there been any research into the impact of mandatory independent pregnancy counselling services on the number of subsequent abortions; and (b) is the Minister aware of any Australian institutions where mandatory independent counselling is provided and the impact this has had on the abortion rate.
- (12) (a) How does the Commonwealth measure the performance of pregnancy counselling services funded by the Commonwealth; and (b) what criteria are used to allocate funding.
- (13) What would be the cost of providing mandatory independent counselling for all women seeking abortions.
- (14) How many women who have abortions do not receive any counselling.
- (15) What would be the cost of including an ultrasound of the foetus as part of the counselling process.
- (16) (a) How does the department budget for Medicare-funded abortions; and (b) what part of the cost of abortions is paid by the Commonwealth in Medicare, Australian Health Care Agreements and other funding.

ORDERS OF THE SENATE

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Address-in-reply

1 Address-in-reply

That standing order 3(4) be suspended to enable the Senate to consider business other than that of a formal character before the address-in-reply to the Governor-General's opening speech has been adopted.

(Agreed to 17 November 2004.)

Committees

2 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

Human Services

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 2000, 13 February 2002 and 17 November 2004.)

3 Estimates—Answers to questions

That answers be provided by 31 January 2005 to:

- (a) estimates questions on notice lodged with legislation committees in the course of the estimates hearings in May and June 2004; and
- (b) estimates questions on notice lodged with legislation committees by 2 December 2004.

(Agreed to 18 November 2004.)

4 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 the sittings of the Senate.

(Agreed to 6 December 2004.)

5 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.)

***6 Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—
Authorisation to meet**

That the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee be authorised to hold a private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1) during the sitting of the Senate on Wednesday, 9 February 2005, from 4 pm to 6 pm, in relation to its inquiry on the administration of Biosecurity Australia concerning the revised draft import risk analysis for apples from New Zealand.

(Agreed to 9 December 2004.)

Meeting of Senate

7 Meeting of Senate

That the days of meeting of the Senate for 2004 and 2005 be as follows:

Spring sittings (2004):

Tuesday, 16 November to Thursday, 18 November

Monday, 29 November to Thursday, 2 December

Monday, 6 December to Thursday, 9 December

Summer sittings (2005):

Tuesday, 8 February to Thursday, 10 February

Autumn sittings (2005):

Monday, 7 March to Thursday, 10 March

Monday, 14 March to Thursday, 17 March

Budget sittings (2005):

Tuesday, 10 May to Thursday, 12 May

Winter sittings (2005):

Tuesday, 14 June to Thursday, 16 June

Monday, 20 June to Thursday, 23 June

Spring sittings (2005):

Tuesday, 9 August to Thursday, 11 August

Monday, 15 August to Thursday, 18 August

Monday, 5 September to Thursday, 8 September

Monday, 12 September to Thursday, 15 September

Tuesday, 4 October to Thursday, 6 October

Monday, 10 October to Thursday, 13 October

Spring sittings (2) (2005):

Monday, 7 November to Thursday, 10 November

Monday, 28 November to Thursday, 1 December.

(Agreed to 17 November 2004.)

Orders for production of documents

8 Parliament—Telstra senior officers—Order for production of document

That there be laid on the table by not later than 1 March 2005 a statement of measures taken by Telstra to ensure that its senior officers are appropriately trained in their obligations to Parliament, including the number and level of officers who have undergone such training and the dates of any such training.

(Agreed to 5 August 2004 upon adoption of a recommendation in the Committee of Privileges' 119th report.)

9 Trade—Free trade agreement—Order for production of documents

That there be laid on the table by the Minister representing the Minister for Trade, no later than 4 pm on Tuesday, 7 December 2004, the final letters and any attachments and annexures exchanged between the governments of Australia and the United States (US) of America to finalise the free trade agreement between Australia and the US.

(Motion of Senator Nettle agreed to 2 December 2004.)

Orders for production of documents still current from previous parliaments

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)

Date of order	Subject	Addressed to
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
19.06.2002	Mining—Christmas Island	
24.06.2002	Superannuation system	
25.06.2002	Finance—Retirement and income modelling	
27.06.2002	Health—Tobacco	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
20.08.2002	Animal Welfare—Cattle	
28.08.2002	Superannuation Working Group	
11.11.2002	Environment—Queensland—Nathan Dam	
14.11.2002	Trade—General Agreement on Trade in Services	Minister representing the Minister for Trade
18.11.2002	Environment—Oceans policy	
19.11.2002	Superannuation—Insurance and Superannuation Commission	Minister representing the Treasurer (Senator Minchin) and the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer (Senator Coonan)
10.12.2002	Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer	
11.12.2002	Environment—Tasmania—Logging	Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation
12.12.2002	Science and Technology—Genetically-modified food	Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs and representing the Prime Minister (Senator Hill)
05.02.2003	Environment—National Radioactive Waste Repository	
05.02.2003	Environment—National Radioactive Waste Repository	
05.03.2003	Environment—National Radioactive Waste Repository	

Date of order	Subject	Addressed to
25.03.2003	Immigration—Illegal migration	
14.05.2003	Environment—Radioactive waste—National store	Minister representing the Minister for Science
14.05.2003	Industry—Basslink	
19.06.2003	Energy Grants (Credits) Scheme—Draft regulations	
17.09.2003	Animal Welfare—Live sheep export	The Government
08.10.2003	Health—National Drug Research Strategy	Minister representing the Minister for Health and Ageing
13.10.2003	Immigration—Management of detention centres	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs
13.10.003	Finance—Calculation of the IBNR levy	Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer
14.10.2003	Animal Welfare—Live sheep export	
16.10.2003	Environment—Sepon Mine	Minister representing the Minister for Trade (Senator Hill)
28.10.2003	Science and Technology—Assisted reproductive technology	Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Hill)
28.10.2003	Education—Higher education—Regional impact statement	Minister representing the Minister for Education, Science and Training
25.11.2003	Finance—Deposit bonds	
01.12.2003	Taxation—First home owners, ‘bracket creep’ and Intergeneration Report	Minister representing the Treasurer
03.12.2003	Health—Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme	
03.12.2003	Environment—Sepon mine	
10.02.2003	Science and Technology—Assisted reproductive technology	Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Hill)
24.03.2004	Superannuation—Departing temporary residents	Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer
24.03.2004	Australian Federal Police Commissioner—Statement	Leader of the Government in the Senate
01.04.2004	Immigration—Ministerial discretion	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

Date of order	Subject	Addressed to
21.06.2004	Indigenous Australians— Lands Acquisition Amendment Regulations 2004 (No. 2)	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs
22.06.2004	Defence—Iraq—Human rights abuses	Minister for Defence
23.06.2004	Science and Technology— Synthetic aperture radar	Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources
23.06.2004	Defence—Office of National Assessments report	Leader of the Government in the Senate
24.06.2004	Environment—Videophone facilities	
04.08.2004	Defence—Missile defence program	Minister for Defence
05.08.2004	Environment—Bushfire mitigation and management	Minister representing the Prime Minister
10.08.2004	Environment—Repulse Bay	Minister for the Environment and Heritage
11.08.2004	Environment—Nuclear waste storage	Minister for Finance and Administration

Parliament

10 Security funding

The Senate:

- (a) notes the transfer of \$1 million from the Department of the Senate to the Department of Parliamentary Services as a special contribution to security costs in the parliamentary precincts over and above the transferred funds previously provided for security, and
- (b) agrees that, if any further funds are necessary to provide additional security costs, they be made by additional appropriation to, or savings within, the Department of Parliamentary Services.

(Agreed to 8 December 2004 upon adoption of a recommendation of the Appropriations and Staffing Committee in its 41st report.)

11 Appropriation bills: Payments to international organisations

The Senate is of the view that:

- (a) an initial payment to an international organisation in effect represents a new policy decision and therefore should be in Appropriation Bill (No. 2); and
- (b) subsequent payments represent a continuing government activity of supporting the international organisation and therefore represents an ordinary annual service and should be in Appropriation Bill (No. 1).

(Agreed to 8 December 2004 upon adoption of a recommendation of the Appropriations and Staffing Committee in its 41st report.)

CONTINGENT NOTICES OF MOTION

Auditor-General's reports—Consideration

- 1 Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Evans)**
Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)
Senator Brown
Senator Harradine
Senator Harris
Senator Nettle
Senator Lees

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 Evans)**
Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Boswell)
Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)
Senator Brown
Senator Harradine
Senator Harris
Senator Nettle
Senator Lees

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 matter.

Government documents

- 4 **Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Evans)**
Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Boswell)
Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)
Senator Brown
Senator Harradine
Senator Harris
Senator Nettle
Senator Lees

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 Evans)**
Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)
Senator Brown
Senator Harradine
Senator Harris
Senator Nettle
Senator Lees

- 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 Evans)**
Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Boswell)
Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)
Senator Brown
Senator Harradine
Senator Harris
Senator Nettle
Senator Lees

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 Evans)**
Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Boswell)
Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)
Senator Brown
Senator Harradine
Senator Harris
Senator Nettle
Senator Lees

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 Evans)**
Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Boswell)
Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)
Senator Brown
Senator Harradine
Senator Harris
Senator Nettle
Senator Lees

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 Evans)**
Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Boswell)
Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)
Senator Brown
Senator Harradine
Senator Harris
Senator Nettle
Senator Lees

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 Evans)**
Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator Boswell)
Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Allison)
Senator Brown
Senator Harradine
Senator Harris
Senator Nettle
Senator Lees

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, Crossin, Ferguson, Hutchins, Kirk, Knowles, Lightfoot, Sandy Macdonald, Marshall, Moore 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

Administration of Indigenous Affairs
Lindeberg Grievance
Scafton Evidence

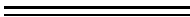
Joint Statutory Committees

ASIO, ASIS and DSD
Australian Crime Commission
Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings
Corporations and Financial Services
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

Administration of Indigenous Affairs—Select Committee

(appointed 16 June 2004; reappointed 17 November 2004; reporting date: 8 March 2005)

Members

Senator Moore (*Chair*), Senator Johnston (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Carr, Crossin, Heffernan, Nettle, Ridgeway and Scullion

Report presented

Interim report (*presented to the President on 31 August 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

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, Boswell, Faulkner, Ferris, Heffernan and Ray

Report presented

41st report—Security funding; Appropriation bills: Payments to international organisations (*tabled 8 December 2004*)

ASIO, ASIS and DSD—Joint Statutory Committee

Members

Senators Ferguson, Sandy Macdonald and Ray

Australian Crime Commission—Joint Statutory Committee

Members

Senator Santoro (*Chair*), Mr Kerr (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Denman, Ferris, Greig and Hutchins and Mr Byrne, Mrs Gash, Mr Richardson and Mr Wood

Report presented

Examination of the annual report for 2002-03 of the National Crime Authority and the Australian Crime Commission (*presented to the President on 31 August 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings—Joint Statutory Committee

Members

The President, the Speaker and Senators Faulkner and Ferris and Mr Baldwin, Mr Bartlett, Mr Lindsay, Mr Murphy and Ms Vamvakinou

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 Moore

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Allison, Bishop, Boswell, Buckland, George Campbell, Carr, Chapman, Colbeck, Collins, Coonan, Crossin, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Forshaw, Harradine, Hogg, Lightfoot, Ludwig, Lundy, Mackay, McGauran, McLucas, Moore, Nettle, O'Brien, Payne, Ray, Tierney, Watson and Webber

Current inquiries

Provisions of the Private Health Insurance Incentives Amendment Bill 2004 (*referred 1 December 2004; reporting date: 8 February 2005*)

Provisions of the National Health Amendment (Prostheses) Bill 2004 (*referred 8 December 2004; reporting date: 10 February 2005*)

Report presented

Tobacco advertising prohibition (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Kirk, on 30 September 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Community Affairs References Committee*Members*

Senator Marshall (*Chair*), Senator Knowles (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Humphries, Hutchins, Lees and Moore

Substitute members

Senator Allison to replace Senator Lees for the committee's inquiry into aged care

Senator Murray to replace Senator Lees for the committee's inquiry into children in institutional care

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Allison, Barnett, Bishop, George Campbell, Carr, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Crossin, Denman, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Forshaw, Greig, Harradine, Lees, Lightfoot, Ludwig, Mackay, Mason, McGauran, McLucas, Murray, Nettle, O'Brien, Payne, Tierney, Watson and Webber

Current inquiries

Children in institutional care (*referred 4 March 2003; readopted 1 December 2004; reporting date: 17 March 2005*)

Aged care (*referred 23 June 2004; readopted 1 December 2004; reporting date: 23 June 2005*)

Reports presented

Inquiry into aged care—Interim report (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Kirk, on 30 September 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Matters not disposed of at the end of the 40th Parliament (*tabled 1 December 2004*)

Corporations and Financial Services—Joint Statutory Committee

Members

Senator Chapman (*Chair*), Senators Brandis, Lundy, Murray and Wong and Mr Bartlett, Ms JM Kelly and Mr McArthur

Current inquiries

The Australian Accounting Standards tabled in compliance with the *Corporations Act 2001* on 30 August and 16 November 2004 (*adopted 2 December 2004*)

Regulation of property investment advice (*adopted 8 December 2004*)

Regulation of the time share industry in Australia (*adopted 8 December 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 member

Senator Allison to replace Senator Murray for matters relating to the Resources portfolio

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Boswell, Brown, Buckland, George Campbell, Carr, Cherry, Colbeck, Conroy, Cook, Coonan, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Fifield, Forshaw, Harradine, Hogg, Kirk, Knowles, Lightfoot, Ludwig, Lundy, Mackay, Marshall, Mason, McGauran, O'Brien, Payne, Ray, Ridgeway, Sherry, Stott Despoja, Tchen, Tierney and Wong

Reports presented

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2004), September 2004 (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Ferguson, on 1 September 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Provisions of the Tax Laws Amendment (Superannuation Reporting) Bill 2004 (*tabled 7 December 2004*)

Economics References Committee

Members

Senator Stephens (*Chair*), Senator Brandis (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Chapman, Lundy, Ridgeway and Webber

Substitute member

Senator Allison to replace Senator Ridgeway for matters relating to the Resources portfolio

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Barnett, Boswell, Brown, Buckland, George Campbell, Carr, Cherry, Colbeck, Conroy, Coonan, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Fifield, Forshaw, Harradine, Kirk, Knowles, Lightfoot, Ludwig, Mackay, Mason, McGauran, Murray, Payne, Ray, Sherry, Stott Despoja, Tchen, Tierney, Watson and Wong

Current inquiry

- * Possible links between household debt, demand for imported goods and Australia's current account deficit (*referred 9 December 2004; reporting date: first sitting day in September 2004*)
-

Electoral Matters—Joint Standing Committee

(*appointed 18 November 2004*)

Members

Senators Brandis, Carr, Forshaw, Mason and Murray and Mr Ciobo, Mr Danby, Mr Melham, Ms Panopoulos and Mr ADH Smith

Current inquiry

Electoral funding and disclosure and any amendments to the Commonwealth Electoral Act necessary in relation to political donations (*referred 30 November 2004*)

Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee*Portfolios*

Employment and Workplace Relations; Education, Science and Training

Members

Senator Tierney (*Chair*), Senator Marshall (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Barnett, Johnston, Stott Despoja and Wong

Substitute members

Senator Allison to replace Senator Stott Despoja for matters relating to the Schools and Training portfolio

Senator Cherry to replace Senator Stott Despoja for matters relating to the Employment portfolio

Senator Murray to replace Senator Stott Despoja for matters relating to the Workplace Relations portfolio

Senator Carr to replace Senator Wong for matters relating to the Education portfolio

Senator Crossin to replace Senator Wong for matters relating to the Industrial Relations portfolio

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Bartlett, Boswell, Buckland, George Campbell, Carr, Chapman, Cherry, Colbeck, Collins, Coonan, Crossin, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Fifield, Forshaw, Harradine, Hogg, Humphries, Hutchins, Knowles, Lightfoot, Ludwig, Lundy, Mackay, Mason, McGauran, Nettle, O'Brien, Payne, Ray, Santoro, Sherry, Stephens, Watson and Webber

Current inquiries

Provisions of the Workplace Relations Amendment (Right of Entry) Bill 2004 (*referred 8 December 2004; reporting date: 7 March 2005*)

- * Provisions of the Workplace Relations Amendment (Small Business Employment Protection) Bill 2004 (*referred 9 December 2004; reporting date: 14 March 2005*)

Reports presented

Provisions of the Higher Education Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 3) 2004 (*presented to the President on 31 August 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*) and a supplementary report from the Australian Democrats (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Ferguson, on 2 September 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2004), September 2004 (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Ferguson, on 1 September 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Provisions of the Workplace Relations Amendment (Protecting Small Business Employment) Bill 2004—Interim report (*presented to the President on 14 September 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Inquiry into the proposed amendment in the form of Schedule 1B to the Workplace Relations Amendment (Codifying Contempt Offences) Bill 2004—Interim report (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator McLucas, on 27 October 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Workplace Relations Amendment (Agreement Validation) Bill 2004 (*tabled 29 November 2004*)

Matters not disposed of at the end of the 40th Parliament (*tabled 8 December 2004*)

Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee

Members

Senator Crossin (*Chair*), Senators Barnett, Collins, Kirk, Stott Despoja and Tierney

Substitute members

Senator Allison to replace Senator Stott Despoja for matters relating to the Schools and Training portfolio

Senator Cherry to replace Senator Stott Despoja for matters relating to the Employment portfolio

Senator Murray to replace Senator Stott Despoja for matters relating to the Workplace Relations portfolio

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Bartlett, Boswell, Buckland, George Campbell, Carr, Chapman, Cherry, Colbeck, Coonan, Denman, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Fifield, Forshaw, Harradine, Humphries, Hutchins, Johnston, Knowles, Lightfoot, Ludwig, Mackay, Marshall, Mason, McGauran, McLucas, Moore, Nettle, O'Brien, Payne, Ray, Santoro, Sherry, Stephens, Watson, Webber and Wong

Current inquiries

Indigenous education (*referred 6 December 2004; reporting date: 12 May 2005*)

Unfair dismissal laws (*referred 7 December 2004; reporting date: 14 June 2005*)

Student income support (*referred 11 March 2004; readopted 8 December 2004; reporting date: 16 June 2005*)

Reports presented

Inquiry into lifelong learning—Interim report (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Kirk, on 20 October 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Inquiry into Indigenous training and employment—Interim report (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Kirk, on 20 October 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Inquiry into student income support—Interim report (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Kirk, on 20 October 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Matters not disposed of at the end of the 40th Parliament (*tabled 8 December 2004*)

Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee

Portfolios

Environment and Heritage; Communications, Information Technology and the Arts

Members

Senator Eggleston (*Chair*), Senators Allison, Conroy, Lundy, Santoro and Tchen

Substitute members

Senator Cherry to replace Senator Allison for matters relating to the Communications portfolio

Senator Greig to replace Senator Allison for matters relating to the Information Technology portfolio

Senator Ridgeway to replace Senator Allison for matters relating to the Arts portfolio

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Bolkus, Boswell, Brown, George Campbell, Carr, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Crossin, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Harradine, Heffernan, Hogg, Humphries, Knowles, Lightfoot, Ludwig, Mason, McGauran, McLucas, Moore, Nettle, O'Brien, Ray, Watson and Wong

Current inquiry

Provisions of the Broadcasting Services Amendment (Anti-Siphoning) Bill 2004 (*referred 8 December 2004; reporting date: 7 March 2005*)

Reports presented

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2004), September 2004 (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Ferguson, on 1 September 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Provisions of the National Water Commission Bill 2004 (*tabled 7 December 2004*)

Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee

Members

Senator Cherry (*Chair*), Senator Tierney (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Bishop, Conroy, Lundy and Tchen

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Allison, Bolkus, Boswell, Brown, Buckland, George Campbell, Carr, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Crossin, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Harradine, Humphries, Knowles, Ludwig, Mason, McGauran, Nettle, O'Brien, Payne, Ray and Watson

Current inquiries

Provisions of the Australian Communications and Media Authority Bill 2004, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2004, the Datacasting Charge (Imposition) Amendment Bill 2004, the Radio Licence Fees Amendment Bill 2004, the Radiocommunications (Receiver Licence Tax) Amendment Bill 2004, the Radiocommunications (Spectrum Licence Tax) Amendment Bill 2004, the Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Amendment Bill 2004, the Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Charges) Amendment Bill 2004, the Telecommunications (Numbering Charges) Amendment Bill 2004 and the Television Licence Fees Amendment Bill 2004, and related matters (*referred 8 December 2004; reporting date: 10 March 2004*)

Budgetary and environmental implications of the Government's Energy White Paper
(referred 24 June 2004; readopted 8 December 2004; reporting date: 10 March 2005)

Reports presented

Budgetary and environmental implications of the Government's energy white paper—
Interim report (presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Ferguson,
on 2 September 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004)
Matters not disposed of at the end of the 40th Parliament (tabled 1 December 2004)
Matters not disposed of at the end of the 40th Parliament (tabled 8 December 2004)
Turning back the tide – the invasive species challenge: Report on the regulation,
control and management of invasive species and the Environment Protection and
Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Invasive Species) Bill 2002 (tabled
8 December 2004)

Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

Portfolios

Parliament; Prime Minister and Cabinet; Finance and Administration; Human Services

Members

Senator Mason (*Chair*), Senator Murray (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Brandis,
George Campbell, Forshaw and Heffernan

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Brown, Carr, Chapman, Colbeck, Conroy, Coonan, Eggleston, Evans,
Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Fifield, Harradine, Hogg, Knowles, Ludwig, Lundy,
Mackay, Marshall, McGauran, Moore, O'Brien, Payne, Ray, Ridgeway, Sherry,
Stephens, Tchen, Tierney, Watson and Webber

Report presented

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2004), September 2004 (presented to the Temporary Chair of
Committees, Senator Ferguson, on 1 September 2004, pursuant to standing order
38(7); tabled 16 November 2004) and corrigendum (presented to the Temporary Chair
of Committees, Senator McLucas, on 7 September 2004, pursuant to standing order
38(7); tabled 16 November 2004)

Finance and Public Administration References Committee

Members

Senator Forshaw (*Chair*), Senator Watson (*Deputy Chair*), Senators George Campbell,
Heffernan, Moore and Ridgeway

Substitute members

Senator Murray to replace Senator Ridgeway for the committee's inquiry into
government advertising
Senators Barnett and Johnston to replace Senators Watson and Heffernan for the
committee's inquiry into the Regional Partnerships program
Senator Murray to replace Senator Ridgeway for the committee's inquiry into the
Regional Partnerships program
Senators Carr and O'Brien to replace Senators George Campbell and Moore for the
committee's inquiry into the Regional Partnerships program

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Brandis, Boswell, Brown, Carr, Chapman, Colbeck, Conroy, Coonan, Crossin, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Fifield, Harradine, Knowles, Ludwig, Lundy, Sandy Macdonald, Mackay, Mason, McGauran, McLucas, Murray, O'Brien, Payne, Ray, Sherry, Stephens, Tchen, Tierney and Webber

Current inquiries

Government advertising (*referred 18 November 2004; reporting date: 22 June 2005*)
Regional Partnerships program (*referred 2 December 2004; reporting date: 15 August 2005*)

Report presented

Inquiry into government advertising and accountability—Interim report (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Brandis, on 3 September 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee

(*appointed 18 November 2004*)

Members

Senator Ferguson (*Chair*), Senators Bolkus, Cook, Eggleston, Harradine, Hutchins, Johnston, Kirk, Lundy, Sandy Macdonald, Payne and Stott Despoja and Mr Baldwin, Mr Baird, Mr Barresi, Mr Beazley, Mr Danby, Mrs Draper, Mr Edwards, Mrs Gash, Mr Gibbons, Mr Haase, Mr Jull, Mrs Moylan, Mr Prosser, Mr Scott, Mr Sercombe, Mr Snowden, Mr Turnbull, Ms Vamvakinou, Mr Wakelin and Mr Wilkie

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee*Portfolios*

Foreign Affairs and Trade; Defence (including Veterans' Affairs)

Members

Senator Sandy Macdonald (*Chair*), Senator Hutchins (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Ferguson, Mackay, Payne, and Ridgeway

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Bartlett, Bishop, Boswell, Brandis, Brown, George Campbell, Carr, Chapman, Colbeck, Conroy, Coonan, Crossin, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferris, Fifield, Forshaw, Harradine, Hogg, Johnston, Kirk, Knowles, Lightfoot, Ludwig, Lundy, Mackay, Mason, McGauran, Nettle, Ray, Santoro, Stott Despoja, Tchen, Tierney and Watson

Report presented

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2004), September 2004 (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Ferguson, on 1 September 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee*Members*

Senator Hutchins (*Chair*), Senator Sandy Macdonald (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Hogg, Johnston, Mackay and Ridgeway

Substitute member

Senator Bartlett to replace Senator Ridgeway for the committee's inquiry into the effectiveness of the Australian military justice system

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Bartlett, Boswell, Brandis, Brown, George Campbell, Carr, Chapman, Colbeck, Collins, Conroy, Coonan, Crossin, Denman, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Fifield, Forshaw, Harradine, Kirk, Knowles, Lightfoot, Ludwig, Mackay, Mason, McGauran, Nettle, Payne, Ray, Santoro, Stott Despoja, Tchen, Tierney and Watson

Current inquiries

Effectiveness of the Australian military justice system (*referred 30 October 2003; terms of reference varied 12 February 2004; readopted 6 December 2004; reporting date: 17 March 2005*)

Australia's relationship with China (*referred 8 December 2004; reporting date: 15 September 2005*)

Reports presented

Inquiry into the effectiveness of Australia's military justice system—Interim report (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator McLucas, on 8 September 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Matters not disposed of at the end of the 40th Parliament (*tabled 6 December 2004*)

House—Standing Committee*Members*

The President (*Chair*), the Deputy President and Senators Carr, Crossin, Ferris, 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 member

Senator Ridgeway to replace Senator Greig for matters relating to the Indigenous Affairs portfolio

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Barnett, Bartlett, Bishop, Brandis, Brown, Buckland, George Campbell, Carr, Chapman, Colbeck, Conroy, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Harradine, Hogg, Humphries, Kirk, Knowles, Lightfoot, Lundy, Mackay, McGauran, McLucas, Nettle, Ray, Ridgeway, Sherry, Stephens, Stott Despoja, Tchen, Tierney and Watson

Current inquiry

Administrative Appeals Tribunal Amendment Bill 2004 (*referred 1 December 2004; reporting date: 10 March 2005*)

Reports presented

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2004), September 2004 (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Ferguson, on 1 September 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Marriage Amendment Bill 2004 (*presented to the President on 6 September 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Provisions of the Criminal Code Amendment (Suicide Related Material Offences) Bill 2004 (*presented to the President on 6 September 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Copyright Legislation Amendment Bill 2004 (*tabled 7 December 2004*)

Disability Discrimination Amendment (Education Standards) Bill 2004 (*tabled 8 December 2004*)

Legal and Constitutional References Committee*Members*

Senator Bolkus (*Chair*), Senator Payne (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Buckland, Greig, Kirk and Scullion

Substitute member

Senator Ridgeway to replace Senator Greig for matters relating to the Indigenous Affairs portfolio

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Barnett, Bartlett, Bishop, Brandis, Brown, George Campbell, Carr, Chapman, Colbeck, Conroy, Crossin, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Harradine, Humphries, Knowles, Lightfoot, Ludwig, Mackay, Mason, McGauran, Murray, Nettle, Ray, Sherry, Stephens, Stott Despoja, Tchen, Tierney and Watson

Current inquiries

Australian expatriates (*referred 16 October 2003; readopted 6 December 2004; reporting date: 8 March 2005*)

- * Effectiveness and appropriateness of the *Privacy Act 1988* (*referred 9 December 2004; reporting date: 30 June 2005*)

Reports presented

The road to a republic (*presented to the President on 31 August 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Inquiry into Australian expatriates—Interim report (*presented to the President on 1 October 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Matters not disposed of at the end of the 40th Parliament (*tabled 6 December 2004*)

Library—Standing Committee*Members*

The President (*Chair*) and Senators Faulkner, Kirk, Scullion, Stephens, Tchen and Tierney

Lindeberg Grievance—Select Committee

(appointed 1 April 2004; final report tabled 16 November 2004)

Report presented

Report *(presented to the Deputy President on 15 November 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004)*

Migration—Joint Standing Committee

(appointed 18 November 2004)

Members

Senators Bartlett, Eggleston, Kirk and Tchen and Mr Keenan, Mr Randall and Dr Southcott

National Capital and External Territories—Joint Standing Committee

(appointed 18 November 2004)

Members

Senator Lightfoot (*Chair*), Senator Crossin (*Deputy Chair*), The Deputy President and Chairman of Committees, the Deputy Speaker, and Senators O'Brien, Scullion and Stott Despoja and Mr Neville, Ms Panopoulos and Mr Secker

Current inquiry

* Adequacy of funding for Australia's Antarctic Program *(adopted 10 September 2003; terms of reference varied 26 November 2003; readopted 8 December 2004)*

Reports presented

Indian Ocean territories: Review of the annual reports of the Department of Transport and Regional Services and the Department of the Environment and Heritage *(presented to the President on 31 August 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004)*

Difficult choices: Inquiry into the role of the National Capital Authority in determining the extent of redevelopment of the Pierces Creek Settlement in the ACT *(presented to the President on 31 August 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004)*

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*), Ms Vamvakinou (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Carr, Crossin, Lees and Scullion and Mr McMullan, Mr Randall, Mr Slipper and Mr Tollner

Privileges—Standing Committee*Members*

Senator Faulkner (*Chair*), Senator Knowles (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Humphries, Johnston, Payne, Ray and Sherry

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, Eggleston, Ellison, Faulkner, Ferguson and Ray

Public Accounts and Audit—Joint Statutory Committee*Members*

Mr Baldwin (*Chairman*), Senators Hogg, Humphries, Moore, Murray, Scullion and Watson and Mr Broadbent, Ms JM Kelly, Dr Laming, Mr Somlyay and Mr Ticehurst

Current inquiry

- * Indigenous law and justice (*adopted 8 December 2004*)
-

Public Works—Joint Statutory Committee*Members*

Mrs Moylan (*Chairman*), Senators Ferguson, Forshaw and Troeth and Mr Forrest, Mr Jenkins, Mr BP O'Connor, Mr Ripoll and Mr Wakelin

Reports presented

Proposed development of land at Lee Point, Darwin, for defence and private housing (Fifth report of 2004) (*tabled 8 December 2004*)

Fit-out of new leased premises for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet at 1 National Circuit, Barton, ACT (Sixth report of 2004) (*tabled 8 December 2004*)

Fit-out of new leased premises for the Attorney-General's Department at 3-5 National Circuit, Barton, ACT (Seventh report of 2004) (*tabled 8 December 2004*)

New east building for the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT (Eighth report of 2004) (*tabled 8 December 2004*)

Development of a new collection storage facility for the National Library of Australia at Hume, ACT (Ninth report of 2004) (*tabled 8 December 2004*)

Publications—Standing Committee*Members*

Senator Watson (*Chair*), Senators Hutchins, Johnston, Kirk, Marshall, Moore and Scullion

Report presented

- * 1st report (*tabled 9 December 2004*)
-

Regulations and Ordinances—Legislative Scrutiny Standing Committee

Members

Senator Tchen (*Chairman*), Senators Bartlett, Marshall, Mason, Moore and Santoro

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, Ferris, McGauran and Stephens

Participating members

Senators Abetz, Allison, Bishop, Boswell, Brown, George Campbell, Carr, Chapman, Coonan, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Greig, Harradine, Hogg, Hutchins, Knowles, Lightfoot, Ludwig, Lundy, Sandy Macdonald, Mackay, Mason, McLucas, Nettle, O'Brien, Payne, Ray, Santoro, Tchen, Tierney, Watson and Webber

Current inquiries

Administration of Biosecurity Australia concerning the revised draft import risk analysis for bananas from the Philippines (*adopted under standing order 25(2)(b), 2 March 2004; readopted 1 December 2004; reporting date: last sitting day in March 2005*)

Administration of Biosecurity Australia concerning the revised draft import risk analysis for apples from New Zealand (*adopted under standing order 25(2)(b), 2 March 2004; readopted 1 December 2004; reporting date: last sitting day in March 2005*)

Reports presented

Annual reports (No. 2 of 2004), including final report on the administration of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, September 2004 (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Ferguson, on 1 September 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Provisions of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2004 (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Ferguson, on 2 September 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Provisions of the National Animal Welfare Bill 2003—Interim report (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Watson, on 8 September 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*)

Matters not disposed of at the end of the 40th Parliament (*tabled 1 December 2004*)

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, Allison, Boswell, Brown, George Campbell, Carr, Chapman, Colbeck, Coonan, Crossin, Eggleston, Evans, Faulkner, Ferguson, Ferris, Greig, Harradine, Hutchins, Ludwig, Knowles, Lightfoot, Sandy Macdonald, Mackay, Mason, McLucas, Nettle, Payne, Ray, Santoro, Tchen, Tierney, Watson and Webber

Current inquiry

Compensation for wheat growers (*referred 8 December 2004; reporting date: 16 June 2005*)

Report presented

Australian forest plantations: A review of Plantations for Australia: The 2020 Vision (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Ferguson, on 2 September 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*) and corrigendum (*presented to the Temporary Chair of Committees, Senator Brandis, on 3 September 2004, pursuant to standing order 38(7); tabled 16 November 2004*) and further corrigenda (*tabled 8 December 2004*)

Scrafton Evidence—Select Committee

(*appointed 30 August 2004; reappointed 18 November 2004; final report tabled 9 December 2004*)

Members

Senator Collins (*Chair*), Senator Brandis (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Bartlett, Faulkner and Ferguson

Report presented

* Report (*tabled 9 December 2004*)

Scrutiny of Bills—Legislative Scrutiny Standing Committee*Members*

Senator Ray (*Chairman*), Senator Mason (*Deputy Chairman*), Senators Barnett, Johnston, Marshall and Murray

Current inquiry

Entry, search and seizure provisions in Commonwealth legislation (*referred 25 March 2004; readopted 29 November 2004*)

Alert Digests presented

No. 11 of 2004 (*tabled 1 December 2004*)

No. 12 of 2004 (*tabled 8 December 2004*)

Reports presented

Matters not disposed of at the end of the 40th Parliament (*tabled 29 November 2004*)

Eleventh report of 2004 (*tabled 1 December 2004*)

Twelfth report of 2004 (*tabled 8 December 2004*)

Selection of Bills—Standing Committee*Members*

The Government Whip (*Chair*), the Opposition Whip, the Australian Democrats Whip, the Nationals Whip and Senators Eggleston, Ellison, Ludwig and Webber

Reports presented

Report no. 12 of 2004 (*presented 1 December 2004*)

Report no. 13 of 2004 (*presented 6 December 2004*)

Report no. 14 of 2004 (*presented 8 December 2004*)

Senators' Interests—Standing Committee

Members

Senator Denman (*Chair*), Senator Lightfoot (*Deputy Chair*), Senators Allison, Forshaw, Humphries, Kirk, McGauran and Webber

Notifications of alterations of interests

Register of senators' interests incorporating a statement of interests and notifications of alterations of interests of senators lodged between 19 June and 6 December 2004 (*tabled 8 December 2004*)

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee

(*appointed 18 November 2004*)

Members

Senators Bartlett, Collins, Mackay, Mason, Santoro, Stephens and Tchen and Mr Johnson, Mrs May, Ms Panopoulos, Mr Scott, Dr Southcott and Mr Turnbull

Current inquiry

Proposed agreement relating to US nationals and the International Criminal Court (*referred 7 December 2004; reporting date: 30 June 2005*)

Report presented

Report 61—The Australia – United States Free Trade Agreement—Corrigenda (*tabled 7 December 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*).

HARRY EVANS

Clerk of the Senate

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 Minister for Veterans' 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> <i>Vice-President of the Executive Council</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 Indigenous Affairs</i>	Minister for Education, Science and Training Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs Minister for Vocational and Technical Education
Senator the Honourable Kay Patterson <i>Minister for Family and Community Services</i> <i>Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women's Issues</i>	Minister for Health and Ageing Minister for Human Services Minister for Ageing
Senator the Honourable Helen Coonan <i>Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts</i>	Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer
Senator the Honourable Ian Campbell <i>Minister for the Environment and Heritage</i>	Minister for Transport and Regional Services Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads
Senator the Honourable Christopher Ellison (<u>Chris</u>) <i>Minister for Justice and Customs</i> <i>Manager of Government Business in the Senate</i>	Attorney-General
Senator the Honourable Ian Macdonald <i>Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation</i>	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Senator the Honourable Charles Kemp (<u>Rod</u>) <i>Minister for the Arts and Sport</i>	
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 Workforce Participation
Parliamentary Secretary	
Senator the Honourable Richard Colbeck <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.