

The Senate

---

Standing Committee on  
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

---

Australian Participants in British Nuclear Tests  
(Treatment) Bill 2006 [Provisions]

Australian Participants in British Nuclear Tests  
(Treatment) (Consequential Amendments and  
Transitional Provisions) Bill 2006 [Provisions]

November 2006

© Commonwealth of Australia 2006

ISBN 0 642 71720 6

Printed by the Senate Printing Unit, Parliament House, Canberra.

# Members of the Committee

## Core Members

Senator David Johnston, LP, WA (Chair)  
Senator Steve Hutchins, ALP, NSW (Deputy Chair)  
Senator Mark Bishop, ALP, WA  
Senator Alan Ferguson, LP, SA  
Senator John Hogg, ALP, QLD  
Senator Marise Payne, LP, NSW  
Senator Russell Trood, LP, QLD

## Secretariat

Dr Kathleen Dermody, Committee Secretary  
Ms Lisa Fenn, Principal Research Officer  
Dr Richard Grant, Senior Research Officer  
Ms Angela Lancsar, Executive Assistant

Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

Phone: + 61 2 6277 3535  
Fax: + 61 2 6277 5818  
Email: [fadt.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:fadt.sen@aph.gov.au)  
Internet: [www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/fadt\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/fadt_ctte/index.htm)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Members of the Committee</b>	iii
<b>CHAPTER 1</b>	
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
Background	1
Reference of the Bills	2
Purpose of the Bills	2
Submissions and hearings	3
Acknowledgement	3
<b>CHAPTER 2</b>	
<b>BACKGROUND</b>	<b>5</b>
The tests	5
Brief history of studies	6
The Mortality and Cancer Incidence Study	9
Review of Veterans' Entitlements	12
Government response to the review	14
The new entitlements	15
<b>CHAPTER 3</b>	
<b>PROVISIONS OF THE BILLS</b>	<b>17</b>
Australian Participants in British Nuclear Tests (Treatment) Bill 2006	17
Who is covered?	17
Entitlements	18
The appeals process	19
Travel allowances	19
Offences under the Act and recovery of amounts	19
Australian Participants in British Nuclear Tests (Treatment) (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2006	20
Summary	21
<b>CHAPTER 4</b>	
<b>ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>23</b>
Provisions of the Bills	23
Committee view	25
Other matters	26
Disputes over the scientific studies	26
Ineligibility for veterans' entitlements	30
Compensation, justice and recognition	33
Conclusions and recommendation	36
<b>AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS ADDITIONAL COMMENTS</b>	<b>39</b>

<b>APPENDIX 1</b>	
<b>PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS</b>	49
<b>APPENDIX 2</b>	
<b>PUBLIC HEARING AND WITNESSES</b>	51
<b>APPENDIX 3</b>	
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, TABLED DOCUMENTS, AND ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE</b>	53