

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES****VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 58

TUESDAY, 24 AUGUST 1999



1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

**2 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice were asked.

**3 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT**

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Auditor-General—Audit report No. 8 of 1999-2000—Performance Audit—Managing data privacy in Centrelink—Centrelink.

Ordered to be printed.

**4 PAPERS**

The following papers were presented:

Financial Institutions and Public Administration—House of Representatives Standing Committee—Review of the National Competition Council's Annual Report 1996-97—Government response, August 1999.

Judge Advocate General—Report for 1998.

**5 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—CULTURAL AND HERITAGE GRANTS**

The House was informed that Mr Tanner had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The political bias in the Government's administration of cultural and heritage grants".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Tanner addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

**6 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT**

Mr Nehl (Chair) presented the following paper:

Selection Committee—Report relating to the consideration of committee and delegation reports and private Members' business on Monday, 30 August 1999.

**7 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING**

The Deputy Speaker reported that Wednesday, 25 August 1999, at 9.40 a.m., had been fixed for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

**8 BILLS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE**

Mr Ronaldson (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That the following Bills be referred to the Main Committee for further consideration:

Crimes Amendment (Fine Enforcement) 1999;

Customs Tariff Amendment (No. 2) 1999;

Electronic Transactions 1999; and

Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Legislation Amendment 1999.

Question—put and passed.

**9 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—A NEW TAX SYSTEM (COMMONWEALTH-STATE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS) BILL 1999**

Message No. 181, 23 August 1999, from the Senate was reported returning the A New Tax System (Commonwealth-State Financial Arrangements) Bill 1999 and acquainting the House that the Senate had agreed to the bill as amended by the House at the request of the Senate, with the amendments indicated by the annexed schedule, and had agreed to the further amendments made by the House.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Williams (Attorney-General), the amendments were agreed to, after debate.

**10 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE**

A message from the Senate was reported returning the A New Tax System (Commonwealth-State Financial Arrangements—Consequential Provisions) Bill 1999 and acquainting the House that the Senate does not insist upon its amendment disagreed to by the House, has agreed to the amendment made by the House in place thereof, and has agreed to the further amendments made by the House—Message No. 182, 23 August 1999.

**11 TELEVISION LICENCE FEES AMENDMENT BILL 1999**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr McGauran (Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation), the Bill was read a third time.

**12 BROADCASTING SERVICES AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1999**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr McGauran (Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation), the Bill was read a third time.

**13 VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING FUNDING AMENDMENT BILL 1999**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed by Mr Lee who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not declining to give the Bill a second reading, the House:

- (1) notes that a quality vocational education and training system has a vital role to play in Australia’s future; and
- (2) condemns the Government for:
  - (a) undermining the quality of our vocational education and training system through its obsession with cost-cutting and privatisation;
  - (b) failing to meet its responsibilities to fund growth in TAFE; and
  - (c) failing to properly administer the provision of vocational education and training to overseas students”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

*Message from the Governor-General*

Message No. 104, 16 July 1999, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Ms Worth (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

**14 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—MINISTER FOR FORESTRY AND CONSERVATION**

Message No. 183, 24 August 1999, from the Senate was reported acquainting the House that the Senate had agreed to a resolution concerning the Minister for Forestry and Conservation.

Ms Worth (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs) moved—That the message be considered at the next sitting.

Question—put and passed.

**15 STATES GRANTS (GENERAL PURPOSES) AMENDMENT BILL 1999**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate having been resumed by Mr Tanner—

**16 ADJOURNMENT**

It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.

**PAPERS**

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 24 August 1999:

Broadcasting Services Act—Broadcasting Services (Events) Notice No. 1 of 1994—Amendment 1999 No. 2.

National Health Act—Instrument—Guidelines under section 82ZRB, 16 August 1999.

Parliamentary Entitlements Act—Advice of decisions under paragraph 18(a), 12 August 1999.

Public Service Act—Determinations 1999 Nos. LES 18, LES 19, LES 20.

**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr G. J. Evans, Mr O'Keefe and Mr Wilkie.



**I. C. HARRIS**

Clerk of the House of Representatives