

2002-03-04

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 174

MONDAY, 31 MAY 2004

1 The House met, at 12.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Jull presented the following papers:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Near neighbours—Good neighbours: An inquiry into Australia's relationship with Indonesia—
Report, May 2004.

Evidence received by the committee.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Statements in connection with the report were made.

The time allotted for making statements on the report having expired—

Mr Jull moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mr Jull was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

In accordance with standing order 102B, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

3 LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mrs B. K. Bishop (Chair) presented the following papers:

Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee—Modern-day usage of averments in customs prosecutions—

Report, incorporating dissenting report, May 2004.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Statements in connection with the report were made.

The time allotted for making statements on the report having expired—

Mrs B. K. Bishop moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mrs B. K. Bishop was granted leave to continue her speech when the debate is resumed.

In accordance with standing order 102B, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

4 PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Mr Wilkie, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) recognises the importance of the parliamentary education program for Australian school students which encourages young people to come to Canberra and participate in and learn about our federal democracy and culture;

- (2) supports and encourages utilisation of the educational resources available that complement parliamentary and democracy education;
- (3) provides for the provision of realistic and flexible financial assistance to schools and students planning parliamentary educational programs; and
- (4) calls on the Parliament to make rebate schemes more reflective and considerate of travel distances to the National Capital in order to allow equality of access to the parliamentary education program for all students and that such rebates reflect market pricing for those reliant on air travel.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

5 FIRST HOME BUYERS

Mr Bartlett, by leave, for Mr Farmer, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) recent statistics show that first home buyers in Australia now make up only 11.6 per cent of all homebuyers, down from 24 per cent two years ago;
 - (b) the drip-feed land release policies of the NSW Carr Labor Government have pushed land prices to unaffordable levels for first home buyers in Sydney;
 - (c) the NSW State Government took \$3.5 billion in Stamp Duty from homebuyers in NSW in the 2002/03 financial year and that all State and Territory Governments took \$8.4 billion from all Australian Homebuyers;
 - (d) the median Sydney house price is now \$460,000 and the stamp duty payable on that purchase value is \$16,190;
 - (e) stamp duty is the single biggest impediment to first home buyers; and
 - (f) the Federal Government is leading the way in home ownership policies by paying out \$3.8 billion in assistance through the First Home Owners Grant and supporting homebuyers with record low interest rates;
- (2) calls on:
 - (a) the NSW Government to introduce a sensible land release policy that ensures there is enough available land to meet the needs of Sydney's growing population; and
 - (b) all State and Territory Governments to give first home buyers the chance to own their own home by abolishing stamp duty on first home purchases; and
- (3) calls on the Federal Government to:
 - (a) retain the First Home Owners Grant; and
 - (b) review the First Home Owners Grant to ensure it reflects the current costs associated with buying a first home.

Debate ensued.

At 1.45 p.m., the time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 106A, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

6 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

7 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

8 PETITIONS

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

9 BRAIN TUMOURS

Ms Hall, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges that brain tumours can cause immense distress to those who are diagnosed with them, their carers, family and loved ones;
- (2) notes that:
 - (a) 1400 Australians annually are diagnosed with a primary brain tumour;
 - (b) United States' data suggests that statistically there will be almost as many Australians diagnosed with benign brain tumours, many of which can be life threatening; and
 - (c) an even greater number are diagnosed with a metastatic brain tumour;
- (3) notes that brain tumours, unlike some other malignant neoplasms, affect both males and females in all age groups from birth to old age and are now responsible for the cancer deaths of more children under 14 years of age than all types of leukaemia;
- (4) notes that while the incidence of brain tumours is ranked 13th in a list of all cancers in Australia, they rank 4th in a table of the total number of person years of life lost (PYLL) as a result of deaths attributed to cancer;
- (5) notes that, as yet, there does not appear to be any identifiable single cause of primary brain tumours, nor is there an efficient, safe, and cost effective method of screening for them, nor are they necessarily preventable by changes in diet or lifestyle, although these may be useful in alleviating distress and symptoms; and
- (6) calls on the Federal Government to recognise:
 - (a) the need for a specialised response to the challenge caused by brain tumours, particularly in the areas of patient and carer support; and
 - (b) the need for increased support for research, including the collection of more detailed clinical and statistical data, particularly by way of data sets and a brain tumour registry, with a view to developing better treatment protocols leading to longer survival and a better quality of life.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

10 CARERS

Mr Hunt, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) recognises the invaluable contribution that carers make to our community;
- (2) acknowledges that carers need and deserve practical support from the community to meet the significant challenges that they face on a daily basis, whether those challenges be financial, emotional or physical;
- (3) realises that it is not always desirable, possible or practical for carers and the people they care for to live in the same house and therefore they should be entitled to choose the living arrangements that best suit their individual circumstances;
- (4) praises the Howard Government for providing carers and the people they care for with a choice as to the living arrangements that best suit their circumstances as part of the 2004 Budget;
- (5) commends the Howard Government for providing carers receiving the Carers Payment with a one-off payment of \$1000 and \$600 for Carer Allowance recipients for each eligible care receiver they provide care for as part of the 2004 Budget in recognition of their contribution to the community;
- (6) supports the Howard Government's provision of an in-home respite service of up to 5 hours per school week for young carers at risk of leaving secondary school or equivalent vocational education as part of the 2004 Budget;
- (7) commends the Howard Government for providing young at-risk carers one fortnight of respite care each year to undertake activities such as study for exams, training or recreation as part of the 2004 Budget;
- (8) strongly supports the Howard Government for guaranteeing, when matched by States and Territories, up to four weeks a year respite for parents over 70 years of age who are caring for a son or daughter with a disability and, for parents aged 65 to 69 years of age who need to spend time in hospital, two weeks respite as part of the 2004 Budget, and calls on the States and Territories to demonstrate their support for carers by matching this commitment; and

- (9) commends the Howard Government for initiating a strategy to work with the States and Territories and the carer and disability sectors to develop options to help ageing carers plan for the future when they can no longer provide care for their disabled children.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for private Members' business having expired, the debate was interrupted, the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting, and Ms George was granted leave to continue her speech when the debate is resumed.

11 GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 106, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

12 EXPORT MARKET DEVELOPMENT GRANTS AMENDMENT BILL 2004—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to without amendment, and presented a certified copy of the Bill.

Bill agreed to.

On the motion of Mrs D. S. Vale (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

13 AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2004—REPORT FROM MAIN COMMITTEE

The Deputy Speaker reported that the Bill had been fully considered by the Main Committee and agreed to with an amendment (*see item No. 3, Minutes of Proceedings of the Main Committee, 27 May 2004*), and presented a certified copy of the Bill together with a schedule of the amendment.

Amendment made by the Main Committee agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

On the motion of Mrs D. S. Vale (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

14 BILLS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr Lloyd (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That, unless otherwise ordered, at the adjournment of the House for this sitting the following Bills stand referred to the Main Committee for further consideration:

Appropriation (No. 1) 2004-2005;

Appropriation (No. 2) 2004-2005;

Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) (No. 1) 2004-2005;

Appropriation (No. 5) 2003-2004; and

Appropriation (No. 6) 2003-2004.

Question—put and passed.

15 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 2004-2005—BUDGET DEBATE

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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Crean, viz.—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) condemns the Government for its cynical election driven spending spree which—while spending a record \$52 billion over the forward estimates—failed to deliver crucial services to Australians, including:

(a) funding the pneumococcal vaccine for children;

(b) funding VET in schools so young Australians can either Earn or Learn;

- (c) ensuring access to Higher Education without excessive fees or increasing student debt levels;
 - (d) ensuring all Australians can access bulkbilling services; and
 - (e) ensuring adequate measures to respond to Australia's skill shortage; and
- (2) also condemns the Government for failing to present a strategy to adequately address the long term fiscal challenges facing the nation"—

Debate resumed.

Mr Hunt addressing the House—

16 ADJOURNMENT

It being 9 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 9.30 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 31 May 2004:

Aged Care Act—Determinations under section 52-1—2004 Nos ACA 5, ACA 6.

Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2004 No. 102.

Health Insurance Act—

Declaration—2004 QAA No. 1.

Regulations—Statutory Rules 2004 No. 101.

Navigation Act—Marine Orders—2004 No. 4.

Navigation Act and Protection of the Sea (Prevention of Pollution from Ships) Act—Marine Orders—2004 No. 3.

Textile, Clothing and Footwear Strategic Investment Program Act—Textile, Clothing and Footwear Strategic Investment Program Scheme—2004 Amendment (No. 1).

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Ms Ellis*, Mrs D. M. Kelly, Ms J. S. McFarlane*, Mr Mossfield and Ms Vamvakinou.

* On leave

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives