

2004-05-06-07

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 154

MONDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2007

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- 1 The House met, at 12.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable David Hawker) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENT—REFERENCE TO MAIN COMMITTEE**  
 Mr Hartsuyker (Chair) presented the following documents:  
 Education and Vocational Training—Standing Committee—Top of the class: Report of the inquiry into teacher education—  
 Report, February 2007.  
 Evidence received by the committee.  
 Minutes of proceedings.  
 Report ordered to be made a Parliamentary Paper.  
 Statements in connection with the report were made.  
 The time allotted for making statements on the report having expired—  
 Mr Hartsuyker moved—That the House take note of the report.  
 In accordance with standing order 39, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.  
 Mr Hartsuyker moved—That the order of the day be referred to the Main Committee for debate.  
 Question—put and passed.
- 3 **AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENT—REFERENCE TO MAIN COMMITTEE**  
 Mr Schultz (Chair) presented the following documents:  
 Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—Standing Committee—Skills: Rural Australia's need—  
 Report, February 2007.  
 Evidence received by the committee.  
 Minutes of proceedings.  
 Report ordered to be made a Parliamentary Paper.  
 Statements in connection with the report were made.  
 The time allotted for making statements on the report having expired—  
 Mr Schultz moved—That the House take note of the report.  
 In accordance with standing order 39, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.  
 Mr Schultz moved—That the order of the day be referred to the Main Committee for debate.  
 Question—put and passed.
- 4 **AGED CARE**  
 Mr Ticehurst, by leave, for Mr Bartlett, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:

- (1) recognises the pressures of an ageing population;
- (2) acknowledges the enormous contribution made by senior citizens throughout their working lives;
- (3) recognises the need to provide quality care for the frail aged in our community;
- (4) welcomes the progress made in this area in recent years; and
- (5) welcomes the Government's recently announced package of further measures to help provide community-based and residential care for our frail aged.

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 DENTAL SERVICES

Mrs Elliot, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) since the abolition of the Commonwealth Dental Program, waiting lists for dental services have increased dramatically;
  - (b) an increasing number of Australians are unable to afford private dental treatment and are waiting years for dental care; and
  - (c) poor dental health can contribute to a deterioration in overall health; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
  - (a) acknowledge that the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing inquiry of November 2006, *The Blame Game*, recommended that the Federal Government should fund dental services;
  - (b) reinstate a Commonwealth dental program; and
  - (c) end the 'Blame Game' and work cooperatively with the States and Territories to ensure that services are delivered.

Debate ensued.

At approximately 1.45 p.m., the time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 43, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

## 6 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

## 7 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence overseas of Mr Downer (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Mr Ruddock (Attorney-General) would answer questions on his behalf.

Mr Howard also informed the House that, during the absence overseas of Mr Truss (Minister for Trade), Mr M. A. J. Vaile (Deputy Prime Minister) would answer questions on his behalf today and Mr Downer (Minister for Foreign Affairs) for the remainder of the week.

## 8 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

### *Document*

Mr Rudd (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, presented the following document:

Household finances—Ratio of housing interest payments to disposable income, Reserve Bank of Australia bulletin statistical table: B21—Copy of table.

Questions without notice continuing—

### *Document*

Mr Andren, by leave, presented the following document:

“Working for Lithgow”—Extract from *The Lithgow Mercury*, 10 February 2007.

Questions without notice continued.

**9 PETITIONS AND MINISTER'S RESPONSE**

Petitions lodged for presentation and a ministerial response to a petition were announced.

**10 HOME OWNERSHIP**

Mr Cadman, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House condemns the New South Wales Government for presiding over the highest amount of State and local government taxes and charges levied on the cost of a new home and for having the largest shortfall of broad hectare land provision of any State or Territory—putting the dream of home ownership out of the reach of New South Wales families.

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.

**11 CHILDCARE**

Ms K. M. Ellis, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:

- (1) supports a universal right to early learning for all Australian four-year-olds through the introduction of an entitlement to 15 hours of play-based learning per week, for a minimum of forty weeks per year, delivered by a qualified teacher;
- (2) is committed to providing extra financial assistance to build additional childcare centres on primary school grounds and other community land in partnership with childcare providers;
- (3) calls on the Government to increase the number of fully-funded university places in early childhood education to address the shortage of childcare provision across Australia;
- (4) calls on the Government to introduce a 50 per cent HECS remission for 10,000 early childhood graduates working in areas of need;
- (5) calls on the Government to eliminate TAFE fees for childcare trainees; and
- (6) supports the transfer of responsibility for early childhood education and childcare into the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training with a new Office of Early Childhood Education.

Debate ensued.

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

**12 GRIEVANCE DEBATE**

Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 44, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

**13 MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS**

Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following bills:

19 February 2007—Message—

No. 254—

Australian Securities and Investments Commission Amendment (Audit Inspection) 2007.

Customs Tariff Amendment (Incorporation of Proposals) 2007.

Law and Justice Legislation Amendment (Marking of Plastic Explosives) 2007.

Tax Laws Amendment (2006 Measures No. 6) 2007.

Customs Legislation Amendment (Border Compliance and Other Measures) 2007.

No. 255—

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation Amendment 2007.

Migration Amendment (Employer Sanctions) 2007.

**14 DOCUMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENT—REFERENCE TO MAIN COMMITTEE**

Mr Robb (Minister for Vocational and Further Education), by leave, moved—That the House take note of the following document:

Procedure—Standing Committee—Report—Media coverage of House proceedings, including the Chamber, Main Committee and committees [Final report], October 2005—Speaker’s response.

Debate adjourned (Mr Garrett), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

Mr Robb, by leave, moved—That the order of the day be referred to the Main Committee for debate.

Question—put and passed.

**15 EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (WELFARE TO WORK AND VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES) BILL 2006**

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.

*Message from the Governor-General*

Message No. 253, 5 December 2006, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the bill.

*Consideration in detail*

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Ms Gillard (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), by leave, moved Opposition amendments (1) to (14) together.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendments be agreed to—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Barresi, in the Chair)—

AYES, 57

Mr Adams	Ms K. M. Ellis	Mr Katter	Mr Quick
Mr Albanese	Mr Emerson	Mr Kerr	Mr Ripoll
Mr Andren	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Ms King	Ms Roxon
Mr Beazley	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Mr Sawford
Mr Bevis	Mr Garrett	Ms Livermore	Mr Sercombe
Ms Bird	Mr Georganas	Mr McClelland	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Bowen	Ms George	Ms Macklin	Mr Snowdon
Ms A. E. Burke	Mr Gibbons	Mr McMullan	Mr Swan
Mr A. S. Burke	Ms Gillard	Mr Melham	Mr Tanner
Mr Byrne	Ms Grierson	Mr Murphy	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mr Crean	Mr Griffin	Mr B. P. O’Connor	Ms Vamvakinou
Mr Danby*	Ms Hall*	Mr G. M. O’Connor	Mr Wilkie
Mr Edwards	Mr Hayes	Ms Owens	
Mrs Elliot	Ms Hoare	Ms Plibersek	
Ms A. L. Ellis	Mrs Irwin	Mr Price	

## NOES, 77

Mr Abbott	Mr Fawcett	Mr Lloyd	Mr Secker
Mr Anderson	Mr M. D. Ferguson	Mr McArthur*	Mr Slipper
Mr Andrews	Mr Forrest	Mr Macfarlane	Mr A. D. H. Smith
Fran Bailey	Ms Gambaro	Mr McGauran	Mr Somlyay
Mr Baird	Mrs Gash	Mrs Markus	Dr Southcott
Mr Baker	Mr Georgiou	Mrs May	Dr Stone
Mr Baldwin	Mr Haase	Mrs Mirabella	Mr C. P. Thompson
Mr Bartlett	Mr Hardgrave	Mrs Moylan	Mr Ticehurst
Mrs B. K. Bishop	Mr Hartsuyker	Mr Nairn	Mr Tollner
Ms J. Bishop	Mr Henry	Dr Nelson	Mr Turnbull
Mr Broadbent	Mr Hockey	Mr Neville	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Brough	Mrs Hull*	Mr Pearce	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Cadman	Mr Hunt	Mr Prosser	Mr Vasta
Mr Causley	Dr Jensen	Mr Pyne	Mr Wakelin
Mr Ciobo	Mr Johnson	Mr Randall	Dr Washer
Mr Costello	Mr Jull	Mr Richardson	Mr Windsor
Mrs Draper	Mr Keenan	Mr Robb	Mr Wood
Mr Dutton	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Ruddock	
Mr Entsch	Mr Laming	Mr Schultz	
Mr Farmer	Mr Lindsay	Mr Scott	

\* Tellers

And so it was negatived.

Bill agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Dr Stone (Minister for Workforce Participation), by leave, the bill was read a third time.

#### 16 HUMAN SERVICES (ENHANCED SERVICE DELIVERY) BILL 2007

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 Ms Plibersek who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “while supporting the use of smart card technology to improve service delivery in Medicare and social security, to reduce the number of cards necessary for people using these services and to reduce social security and health fraud; the House is of the opinion that the bill should not proceed in its current form because:

- (1) there are inadequate safeguards to protect the accuracy and privacy of information on the card and in the register;
- (2) the Government continues to keep secret key information about the costs of the card; and
- (3) there is no guarantee that the Document Verification Service will be fully operational with appropriate safeguards by the commencement date proposed”.

Debate continued.

Mrs Hull addressing the House—

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#### 17 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 2 p.m. tomorrow.

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**DOCUMENTS**

The following documents were deemed to have been presented on 26 February 2007:

Acts Interpretation Act—Order—2007 Acts Interpretation (Substituted references—Section 19B) Amendment (No. 1) [F2007L00303].

Air Services Act—Air Services Regulations—Instrument—Temporary reclassification of airspace No. AERU 07-14 [F2007L00483].

AusLink (National Land Transport) Act—Variation under subsection 6(1)—2007 National land transport network (No. 1) [F2007L00350].

Australian Communications and Media Authority Act—Determinations—2007—Broadcasting (Charges) [F2007L00371].

Radiocommunications (Charges) [F2007L00372].

Telecommunications (Charges) [F2007L00360].

Telecommunications (Facility installation permit—application charge) [F2007L00349].

Telecommunications (Facility installation permit—public inquiry charges) [F2007L00343].

Telecommunications (Freephone and local rate numbers auctions—registration charge) [F2007L00369].

Telecommunications (Nominated carrier declaration application charge) [F2007L00348].

Telecommunications (Submarine cable permit—application charge) [F2007L00368].

Australian Prudential Regulation Authority Act—Determination under section 57—2007 Confidentiality No. 3, 19 February [F2007L00480].

Aviation Transport Security Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 13 [F2007L00391].

Building and Construction Industry Improvement Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 22 [F2007L00414].

Charter of the United Nations Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 12 [F2007L00418].

Civil Aviation Act—

Civil Aviation Regulations—

Civil Aviation Orders—2007 Civil Aviation Order 82.0 Amendment (No. 1) [F2007L00208].

Instruments—2007—Nos CASA 30, CASA 38 [F2007L00209], [F2007L00281].

Civil Aviation Safety Regulations—Airworthiness Directives—

Part 39-105—2007—

17 January [F2007L00390].

1 (16) February [F2007L00351], [F2007L00352], [F2007L00353], [F2007L00357], [F2007L00358], [F2007L00359], [F2007L00361], [F2007L00363], [F2007L00364], [F2007L00365], [F2007L00366], [F2007L00376], [F2007L00379], [F2007L00381], [F2007L00384], [F2007L00386].

2 (5) February [F2007L00375], [F2007L00378], [F2007L00387], [F2007L00388], [F2007L00389].

9 February [F2007L00422].

19 (2) February [F2007L00474], [F2007L00475].

20 (2) February [F2007L00476], [F2007L00477].

Part 39-106—2007—

2 February [F2007L00377].

16 February [F2007L00460].

Commonwealth Places (Mirror Taxes) Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 18 [F2007L00299].

Criminal Code Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 3 [F2007L00284].

Customs Act—

Orders—

Tariff Concession—2007—

30 January [F2007L00294].

2 (24) February [F2007L00394], [F2007L00395], [F2007L00396], [F2007L00398], [F2007L00399], [F2007L00400], [F2007L00401], [F2007L00402], [F2007L00403], [F2007L00404], [F2007L00405], [F2007L00406], [F2007L00407], [F2007L00408], [F2007L00409], [F2007L00445], [F2007L00446], [F2007L00447], [F2007L00448], [F2007L00449], [F2007L00451], [F2007L00452], [F2007L00453], [F2007L00455].

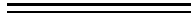
- 5 (3) February [F2007L00443], [F2007L00444], [F2007L00450].
- 9 (16) February [F2007L00435], [F2007L00436], [F2007L00437], [F2007L00438], [F2007L00439], [F2007L00440], [F2007L00441], [F2007L00462], [F2007L00463], [F2007L00464], [F2007L00465], [F2007L00466], [F2007L00467], [F2007L00468], [F2007L00469], [F2007L00470].
- Tariff Concession Revocation—2007—
- 24 (2) January [F2007L00458], [F2007L00459].
- 8 February [F2007L00454].
- 9 (2) February [F2007L00456], [F2007L00457].
- Regulations—Select Legislative Instruments—2007 Nos 4, 5 [F2007L00416], [F2007L00417].
- Defence Act—Determinations under—
- section 58B—2007 No. 6.
- section 58H—2007 Nos 18, 20, SO 2007/1, SO 2007/2.
- Environment and Heritage Legislation Amendment Act (No. 1)—Proclamation under subsection 2 (1) fixing 19 February 2007 as the day on which items 1 to 604, 606, 608 to 762, 764 to 780, 783 to 807, 809 to 835, 840, 846 to 851 and 854 to 869 of Schedule 1 to that Act commence [F2007L00411].
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act—
- Instruments under subsection 303CA(1)—
- 10 January 2007 [F2007L00362].
- 25 January 2007 [F2007L00332].
- Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 9 [F2007L00410].
- Financial Sector Reform (Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Act—Regulations—
- Determinations under subregulation 16(1)—Banking (prudential standard) No. 1 of 2007 [F2007L00234].
- Fisheries Levy Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 2 [F2007L00374].
- Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act—Variations to the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code—2007 Amendment No. 91 [F2007L00373].
- Future Fund Act—Determination—Future Fund (Crediting of additional amounts), 15 February 2007 [F2007L00431].
- Health Insurance Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 10 [F2007L00285].
- Income Tax Assessment Act 1936*—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 19 [F2007L00300].
- Independent Contractors Act—
- Proclamation under subsection 2 (1) fixing 1 March 2007 as the day on which sections 3 to 43 of that Act commence [F2007L00412].
- Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 23 [F2007L00413].
- Industry Research and Development Act—Directions—2006 COMET program, No 1 [F2007L00421].
- International Transfer of Prisoners Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 6 [F2007L00298].
- Migration Act—Migration Regulations—Instrument—2007 Travel agents for PRC citizens applying for tourist visas No. IMMI 07/001 [F2007L00478].
- Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 7 [F2007L00302].
- Mutual Recognition Act—Ministerial declaration—9 February 2007 [F2007L00434].
- National Health Act—
- Arrangements under subparagraph 100(1)(b)(i)—2007 Nos PB 16, PB 17, PB 18 [F2007L00427], [F2007L00425], [F2007L00426].
- Declarations under—
- subsection 85(2)—2007 No. PB 13 [F2007L00428].
- subsection 85(2AA)—2007 No. PB 19 [F2007L00429].
- Determinations under—
- sections 85, 85A and 88—2007 No. PB 12 [F2007L00430].
- subsection 85B(1)—2007 No. PB 15 [F2007L00423].
- paragraph 98C(1)(b)—2007 No. PB 14 [F2007L00424].

- paragraph (1)(bj) of Schedule 1—2007 No. HIB 02 [F2007L00503].  
 Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 11 [F2007L00278].  
 National Transport Commission Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 14 [F2007L00382].  
 Navigation Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 15 [F2007L00383].  
 Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 8 [F2007L00370].  
 Radiocommunications (Receiver Licence Tax) Act—Determination—2007 Radiocommunications (Receiver licence tax) Amendment (No. 1) [F2007L00345].  
 Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Act—Determination—2007 Radiocommunications (Transmitter licence tax) Amendment (No. 1) [F2007L00347].  
 Radiocommunications Act—Determinations—2007—  
 Radiocommunications (Interpretation) Amendment (No. 1) [F2007L00346].  
 Radiocommunications licence conditions (Scientific licence) Amendment (No. 1) [F2007L00344].  
 Remuneration Tribunal Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Determination—2007 No. 1 [F2007L00420].  
 Social Security Act—  
 Determinations—2007—  
 Social Security (Australian Government disaster recovery payment) Amendment (No. 1)—13 February [F2007L00419].  
 Social Security (Australian Government disaster recovery) (No. 1)—15 February [F2007L00442].  
 Social security exempt lump sum (Restructuring grants under the tobacco grower adjustment assistance package 2006) (DEST)—20 February [F2007L00479].  
 Social security exempt lump sum (Restructuring grants under the tobacco grower adjustment assistance package 2006) (DEWR)—20 February [F2007L00482].  
 Social security exempt lump sum (Restructuring grants under the tobacco grower adjustment assistance package 2006) (FaCSIA)—20 February [F2007L00481].  
 Instrument—2007 Social Security (Participation exemption—parenting order) (FaCSIA) [F2007L00432].  
 Stevedoring Levy (Collection) Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instruments—2007 Nos 16, 17 [F2007L00380], [F2007L00385].  
 Taxation Administration Act—Rulings—2007—  
 Nos PR 7, PR 8.  
 Nos ST 2034 (Withdrawal), ST 2035 (Withdrawal), ST 2038 (Withdrawal), ST 2040 (Withdrawal), ST 2042 (Withdrawal), ST 2044 (Withdrawal), ST 2046 (Withdrawal), ST 2047 (Withdrawal), ST 2049 (Withdrawal), ST 2050 (Withdrawal), ST 2051 (Withdrawal), ST 2052 (Withdrawal), ST 2053 (Withdrawal), ST 2054 (Withdrawal), ST 2057 (Withdrawal), ST 2058 (Withdrawal), ST 2059 (Withdrawal), ST 2060 (Withdrawal), ST 2063 (Withdrawal), ST 2065 (Withdrawal).  
 Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Charges) Act—Determination under section 9—2007 Telecommunications (Carrier licence application charge) [F2007L00367].  
 Trade Marks Amendment Act—Proclamation under subsection 2 (1) fixing 27 March 2007 as the day on which Part 2 of Schedule 1 to that Act commences [F2007L00392].  
 Trade Practices Act—  
 Instrument—2007 Consumer protection notices (Revocation) No. 4 [F2007L00212].  
 Regulations—Select Legislative Instruments—2007 Nos 20, 21 [F2007L00233], [F2007L00215].  
 Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Act—Determination—2007 Water efficiency labelling and standards [F2007L00330].  
 Workplace Relations Act—Regulations—Select Legislative Instrument—2007 No. 24 [F2007L00415].
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**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Cobb, Ms Corcoran, Mr Downer, Mrs Elson, Mr Hatton, Mr Jenkins, Jackie Kelly, Mrs Ley, Mr Truss and Mr Tuckey.



**I. C. HARRIS**  
Clerk of the House of Representatives

2004-05-06-07

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**SUPPLEMENT TO VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 154

**MAIN COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

MONDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2007



1 The Main Committee met at 4 p.m.

**2 EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING—STANDING COMMITTEE—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENT**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Hartsuyker—That the House take note of the document (*presented on 26 February 2007*), viz.—

Education and Vocational Training—Standing Committee—Top of the class: Report on the inquiry into teacher education—Report, February 2007—

Debate adjourned (Ms Hall), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**3 AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY—STANDING COMMITTEE—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENT**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Schultz—That the House take note of the document (*presented on 26 February 2007*), viz.—

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—Standing Committee—Skills: Rural Australia's need—Report, February 2007—

Debate resumed.

Mr Schultz, by leave, addressed the Main Committee without closing the debate.

Debate adjourned (Mr Neville), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**4 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 2006-2007**

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 Tanner, 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 is of the view that:

- (1) despite record high commodity prices the Government has failed to secure Australia's long term economic fundamentals and that it should be condemned for its failure to:
  - (a) stem the widening current account deficit and trade deficit;
  - (b) reverse the reduction in education and training investment;
  - (c) acknowledge the connection between climate change and human activity and tackle the serious threat climate change poses to Australia's long-term well-being;
  - (d) address critical structural weaknesses in health such as workforce shortages and rising costs;
  - (e) expand and encourage research and development to move Australian industry and exports up the value-chain; and
  - (f) address falling levels of workplace productivity;

- (2) the Government's extreme industrial relations laws will lower wages and conditions for many workers and do nothing to enhance productivity or economic growth; and
- (3) the Government's Budget documents fail the test of transparency and accountability"—
- Debate resumed.

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*Suspension of meeting*

At 6.11 p.m., a division having been called in the House, the proceedings were suspended.

*Resumption of meeting*

At 6.24 p.m., the proceedings were resumed.

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Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

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

Leave granted for the question on the report to be put immediately.

Question—That the bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

**5 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 4) 2006-2007**

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 the question on the report to be put immediately.

Question—That the bill be reported to the House without amendment—put and passed.

**6 ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Mr Nairn (Special Minister of State), the Main Committee adjourned at 7.38 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker fixed 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 28 February 2007 for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

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**B. C. WRIGHT**  
Clerk of the Main Committee