

# **SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE**

**REPORT NO. 2 OF 2023**

*9 March 2023*

## **MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

Senator Anne Urquhart (Government Whip, Chair)

Senator Wendy Askew (Opposition Whip)

Senator Ross Cadell (The Nationals Whip)

Senator Pauline Hanson (Pauline Hanson's One Nation Whip)

Senator Nick McKim (Australian Greens Whip)

Senator Ralph Babet

Senator the Hon. Anthony Chisholm

Senator the Hon. Katy Gallagher

Senator Matt O'Sullivan

Senator David Pocock

Senator Paul Scarr

Senator Lidia Thorpe

Senator Tammy Tyrrell

Secretary: Tim Bryant  
02 6277 3020

## SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

### REPORT NO. 2 OF 2023

1. The committee met in private session on Wednesday, 8 March 2023 at 7.15 pm.
2. The committee recommends that—
  - (a) the Governor-General Amendment (Cessation of Allowances in the Public Interest) Bill 2023 be *referred immediately* to the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 10 May 2023 (see appendix 1 for a statement of reasons for referral);
  - (b) the *provisions* of the Migration Amendment (Australia’s Engagement in the Pacific and Other Measures) Bill 2023, and the Migration (Visa Pre-application Process) Charge Bill 2023 be *referred immediately* to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 19 June 2023 (see appendix 2 for a statement of reasons for referral); and
  - (c) contingent upon introduction in the House of Representatives, the *provisions* of the Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Income Management Reform) Bill 2023 be *referred immediately* to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee **but was unable to reach agreement on a reporting date** (see appendix 3 for a statement of reasons for referral).
3. The committee recommends that the following bills *not* be referred to committees:
  - Australia Council Amendment (Creative Australia) Bill 2023
  - Electric Vehicles Accountability Bill 2021
  - National Health Amendment (Effect of Prosecution—Approved Pharmacist Corporations) Bill 2023
  - Royal Commissions Amendment (Enhancing Engagement) Bill 2023.
4. The committee deferred consideration of the following bills to its next meeting:
  - Broadcasting Services Amendment (Audio Description) Bill 2019
  - Criminal Code Amendment (Inciting Illegal Disruptive Activities) Bill 2023
  - Customs Legislation Amendment (Commercial Greyhound Export and Import Prohibition) Bill 2021
  - Defence Amendment (Parliamentary Approval of Overseas Service) Bill 2020
  - Education Legislation Amendment (Startup Year and Other Measures) Bill 2023
  - Electoral Legislation Amendment (Lowering the Voting Age) Bill 2023
  - Ending Native Forest Logging Bill 2023
  - Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Regional Forest Agreements) Bill 2020
  - Federal Environment Watchdog Bill 2021

- Financial Accountability Regime Bill 2023  
Financial Accountability Regime (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2023
  - Financial Services Compensation Scheme of Last Resort Levy Bill 2023  
Financial Services Compensation Scheme of Last Resort Levy (Collection) Bill 2023  
Treasury Laws Amendment (Financial Services Compensation Scheme of Last Resort) Bill 2023
  - Improving Access to Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2023
  - National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (Data Streamlining) Amendment Bill 2023
  - Snowy Hydro Corporatisation Amendment (No New Fossil Fuels) Bill 2021 [No. 2]
  - United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Bill 2022.
5. The committee considered the following bill but was unable to reach agreement:
- Treasury Laws Amendment (2023 Measures No. 1) Bill 2023.

(Anne Urquhart)

**Chair**

9 March 2023

**SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE**

**Proposal to refer a bill to a committee**

**Name of bill: "Governor-General Amendment (Cessation of Allowances in the Public Interest) Bill 2023**

**Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:**

- Consideration of the matters raised by the bill,
- financial implications,
- the ethical and appropriate use of public monies,
- accountability, and
- practical steps required for implementation

**Possible submissions or evidence from:**

Department of Finance  
Office of Governor General  
Blue Knot,  
Bravehearts,  
Survivors,  
The Anglican Church,  
St James Ethics Centre

**Committee to which bill is to be referred:** Finance and Public Administration Committee

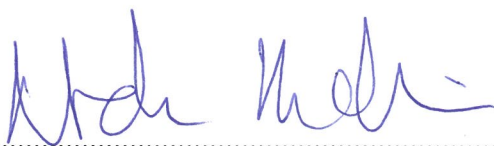
**Possible hearing date(s):**

17 or 21 April  
1 or 2 May

**Possible reporting date:**

10 May

(signed)

  
.....

**SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE**  
**Proposal to refer a bill to a committee**

**Name of bill:**

Migration Amendment (Australia's Engagement in the Pacific and Other Measures) Bill  
2023 Migration (Visa Pre-application Process) Charge Bill 2023

**Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:**

Complicated issue

**Possible submissions or evidence from:**

Sector, Groups Individuals that are affected.

**Committee to which bill is to be referred:**

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

**Possible hearing date(s):**

March – June

**Possible reporting date:**

19 June 2023



(signed)

Print name: Wendy Askew

**SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE**

**Proposal to refer a bill to a committee**

**Name of bills:** the *Migration Amendment (Australia's Engagement in the Pacific and Other Measures) Bill 2023* and *Migration (Visa Pre-application Process) Charge Bill 2023*

**Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:** The Engagement in the Pacific and Other Measures Bill - a 2022 Labor election policy - will provide an entirely novel approach and functionality to the *Migration Act 1958*, and how visa applications are allocated in Australia.

**Possible submissions or evidence from:** Migration experts and academics, legal experts and academics, foreign affairs experts and academics, relevant community organisations.

**Committee to which bill is to be referred:** Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation

**Possible hearing date(s):** 4-6 April 2023

**Possible reporting date:** 10 ~~May~~ 2023

19 June NH

(signed)



.....  
Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member

**SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE**  
**Proposal to refer a bill to a committee**

Name of bill:

Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Income Management Reform) Bill 2023

Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:

- The *Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Income Management Reform) Bill 2023* (the Bill) delivers on the Australian Government's election commitment to reform Income Management (IM) following the cessation of the Cashless Debit Card (CDC) program.
- The Bill establishes operational parameters for enhanced Income Management and is the product of meaningful community consultation.
- The Bill will propose amendments that will commence from a date to be set by proclamation, to give effect to the broader roll out of enhanced IM, and are focused on expanding access to the enhanced IM regime through:
  - providing existing IM participants the choice to access a contemporary card (the SmartCard) through enhanced IM, and
  - directing all new IM entrants to enhanced IM and ensuring no new participants are issued a BasicsCard. Instead they will use the contemporary technology of the SmartCard, delivered by Services Australia.
  - allowing for the Minister to determine, by legislative instrument, that a state or territory department, body or agency is a Recognised State/Territory Authority, in order to accept referrals from states and territories for the purposes of referring a person to enhanced IM.
- These reforms received Cabinet Authority on 13 September 2022 and the measure *Abolish the Cashless Debit Card* in the 2022-23 Budget refers.
- These proposed amendments deal only with what has been already agreed and announced by Government, and do not pre-empt the longer term considerations for Income Management which will be subject to a further comeback to Cabinet, informed by detailed consultation with communities.

Possible submissions or evidence from:

- Department of Social Services
- Queensland Family Responsibilities Commission
- Northern Territory Government
- SNAICC
- Central Australia Aboriginal Congress
- APONT
- Both may not be supportive of IM in general
- Chapters of St Vinnies, Anglicare etc in the relevant sites.
- Child and family wellbeing Australia.



Committee to which bill is to be referred:  
Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Possible hearing date(s):

Any week in April

Possible reporting date:

1 May 2023

(signed)

Print name:

**SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE**

**Proposal to refer a bill to a committee**

**Name of bill:** Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Income Management Reform) Bill 2023 (To be Originated in the House of Representatives on 9 March 2023)

**Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:**

- Scrutiny of government legislation
- Understand views of stakeholders
- Identify human rights implications

**Possible submissions or evidence from:**

- Accountable Income Management Network
- Australian Council of Social Services
- GetUp!
- Land Councils in the Northern Territory
- Change the Record

**Committee to which bill is to be referred:**

Community Affairs

**Possible hearing date(s):**

TBC by Cttee


**Possible reporting date:**

9<sup>th</sup> June

16

*AM*

(signed)



.....  
Whip / Selection of Bills Committee member

**SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE**  
**Proposal to refer a bill to a committee**

**Name of bill:**

Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Income Management Reform) Bill 2023

**Reasons for referral/principal issues for consideration:**

Complicated issue

**Possible submissions or evidence from:**

Sector, Groups Individuals that are affected.

**Committee to which bill is to be referred:**

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

**Possible hearing date(s):**

March – June

**Possible reporting date:**

16  
June 2023



(signed)

Print name: Wendy Askew

**SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE—PRESENTATION OF  
2ND REPORT OF 2023—AMENDMENTS AGREED TO BY THE  
SENATE ON 9 MARCH 2023**

---

- (1) At the end of the motion, add “and, in respect of the provisions of the Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Income Management Reform) Bill 2023, the Community Affairs Legislation Committee report by 6 June 2023”.
- (2) At the end of the motion, add “but, in respect of the provisions of the Migration Amendment (Australia’s Engagement in the Pacific and Other Measures) Bill 2023 and the Migration (Visa Pre-application Process) Charge Bill 2023, the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee report by 13 June 2023”.
- (3) At the end of the motion, add “and, in respect of the Treasury Laws Amendment (2023 Measures No. 1) Bill 2023, the provisions of the bill be referred immediately to the Economics Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 26 May 2023”.