

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**NOTICE PAPER**

No. 23

MONDAY, 8 MARCH 1999

*The House meets this day at 12.30 p.m.***BUSINESS ACCORDED PRIORITY FOR THIS SITTING****COMMITTEE AND DELEGATION REPORTS****Presentation and statements**

- 1 **ECONOMICS, FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION—STANDING COMMITTEE:** Interim report on Reserve Bank of Australia's annual report for 1997-98. (*Total time for statements—25 minutes.*)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**Notices**

- 1 **MRS CROSIO:** To present a Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment and administration of a scheme to guarantee the payment of wages and certain other liabilities owed to employees in the event of employer insolvency and for related purposes. (*Notice given 9 December 1998; day proposed for presenting Bill changed on 15 February 1999. Time allowed—5 minutes.*)
- †2 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To move—That this House:
- (1) celebrates the 50th anniversary of Australian Citizenship;
 - (2) acknowledges the success of the postwar immigration policy and the massive contribution these new settlers have made to Australia;
 - (3) recognises the desirability of living in one of the world's most harmonious multicultural societies and applauds the diversity of our cultural mix;
 - (4) applauds those beneficiaries of our immigration program who have become citizens of this country; and
 - (5) encourages permanent residents to consider their commitments to this country and apply to take out citizenship in this, the celebratory year of the 50th anniversary of Australian Citizenship. (*Notice given 11 February 1999. Time allotted for debate— remaining private Members' business time prior to 1.45 p.m.*)

* *Notifications to which an asterisk (*) is prefixed appear for the first time*

† *Debate to be adjourned to a future day at the conclusion of the time allotted.*

- †3 **MR CADMAN:** To move—That the House:
- (1) notes with deep concern the high level of suicide in Australia;
 - (2) expresses its dismay that young males, drug takers and residents of rural areas are particularly prone to take their lives;
 - (3) conveys its sympathy to the families and friends who have been touched by the tragedy of suicide; and
 - (4) commits itself as individuals and as a representative group of Australians to do everything possible to reduce the high level of suicide. (*Notice given 15 February 1999. Time allotted for debate—30 minutes.*)
- †4 **MRS HULL:** To move—That this House calls on the Government to make provision for recurrent funding for student hostels servicing the school access needs of students in remote areas of Australia. (*Notice given 15 February 1999. Time allotted for debate—remaining private Members' business time.*)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Orders of the day

- 1 **GRIEVANCE DEBATE:** Question—That grievances be noted (*under standing order 106*).
- 2 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1998-99** (*Minister for Finance and Administration*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 18 February 1999—Mr Sciacca, in continuation*).
- 3 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 4) 1998-99** (*Minister for Finance and Administration*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Ms Macklin*).
- 4 **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS) BILL (NO. 2) 1998-99** (*Minister for Finance and Administration*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Ms Macklin*).
- 5 **FURTHER 1998 BUDGET MEASURES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (SOCIAL SECURITY) BILL 1999** (*Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 11 February 1999—Mr Horne*).
- 6 **AIRPORTS AMENDMENT BILL 1999** (*Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 11 February 1999—Mr Melham*).
- 7 **HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 4) 1998** (*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr Martin*).
- 8 **HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Attorney-General*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 17 February 1999—Mr Swan*).
- 9 **TEXTILE, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PROGRAM BILL 1999** (*Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 11 February 1999—Mr Melham*).

- 10 **CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 1999** (*Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 11 February 1999—Mr Melham*).
- 11 **PETROLEUM RETAIL LEGISLATION REPEAL BILL 1998** (*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 25 November 1998—Mr Horne*).
- 12 **TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (SOFTWARE DEPRECIATION) BILL 1999** (*Minister for Financial Services and Regulation*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 11 February 1999—Mr Melham*).
- 13 **ASSISTANCE FOR CARERS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1999** (*Minister for Community Services*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 17 February 1999—Mr McClelland*).
- 14 **NAVIGATION AMENDMENT (EMPLOYMENT OF SEAFARERS) BILL 1998** (*Minister for Transport and Regional Services*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 9 December 1998—Mr M. J. Ferguson*).
- 15 **BOUNTY (SHIPS) AMENDMENT BILL 1999** (*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 10 February 1999—Mr Martin*).
- 16 **CUSTOMS (ANTI-DUMPING AMENDMENTS) BILL 1998** (*Minister representing the Minister for Justice and Customs*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Ms Macklin*).
- 17 **CUSTOMS TARIFF (ANTI-DUMPING) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1998** (*Minister representing the Minister for Justice and Customs*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Ms Macklin*).
- 18 **YOUTH ALLOWANCE CONSOLIDATION BILL 1999** (*Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 11 February 1999—Mr Melham*).
- 19 **TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 4) 1998** (*Minister for Financial Services and Regulation*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr Martin*).
- 20 **LAW AND JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Attorney-General*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Ms Macklin*).
- 21 **AUSTRALIAN WOOL RESEARCH AND PROMOTION ORGANISATION AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 12 November 1998—Ms Macklin*).
- 22 **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES (EXCISE) LEVIES BILL 1998** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr Martin*).
- 23 **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES (CUSTOMS) CHARGES BILL 1998** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr Martin*).
- 24 **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES LEVIES AND CHARGES (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 1998** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr Martin*).

- 25 **NATIONAL RESIDUE SURVEY (EXCISE) LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr Martin*).
- 26 **NATIONAL RESIDUE SURVEY (CUSTOMS) LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr Martin*).
- 27 **CORPORATE LAW ECONOMIC REFORM PROGRAM BILL 1998** (*Minister for Financial Services and Regulation*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr Martin*).
- 28 **CIVIL AVIATION AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Minister for Transport and Regional Services*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 9 December 1998—Mr M. J. Ferguson*).
- 29 **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1999** (*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 10 February 1999—Mr Martin*).
- 30 **HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1999** (*Attorney-General*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 17 February 1999—Mr McClelland*).
- *31 **RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1999** (*Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 18 February 1999—Mr Smith*).
- *32 **RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS (RECEIVER LICENCE TAX) AMENDMENT BILL 1999** (*Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 18 February 1999—Mr Smith*).
- *33 **RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS (TRANSMITTER LICENCE TAX) AMENDMENT BILL 1999** (*Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 18 February 1999—Mr Smith*).
- *34 **WILDLIFE PROTECTION (REGULATION OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS) AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*from Senate*): Second reading (*from 18 February 1999*).
- *35 **ELECTORAL AND REFERENDUM AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1998**: Consideration of Senate's amendments (*from 18 February 1999*).
- 36 **CENTRELINK**: Consideration of Senate's message No. 2 (*from 12 November 1998*).
- *37 **CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY AUTHORITY—REGULATION OF AQUATIC AIR PTY LTD—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS**: Resumption of debate (*from 18 February 1999—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the papers.
- *38 **BUREAU OF AIR SAFETY INVESTIGATION—CESSNA 185E FLOATPLANE, VH-HTS, CALABASH BAY, NSW—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**: Resumption of debate (*from 18 February 1999—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.

- *39 **AUSTRALIAN HEARING—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 18 February 1999—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 40 **HEALTH INSURANCE COMMISSION—EQUITY AND DIVERSITY PROGRAM—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 17 February 1999—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 41 **ADVANCE TO THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE, NOVEMBER 1998—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 February 1999—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the papers.
- 42 **MID-YEAR ECONOMIC AND FISCAL OUTLOOK 1998-99—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 9 February 1999—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 43 **DATA-MATCHING PROGRAM—ATO'S INTERACTION WITH IN 1995-96, 1996-97 AND 1997-98—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 9 February 1999—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 44 **GUIDE ON KEY ELEMENTS OF MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 9 February 1999—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 45 **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 10 December 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 46 **NATIONAL CRIME AUTHORITY—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Resumption of debate (*from 10 December 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the papers.
- 47 **NUCLEAR SAFETY BUREAU—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 10 December 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 48 **POOLED DEVELOPMENT FUNDS REGISTRATION BOARD—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 10 December 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 49 **COMPANIES AND SECURITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 9 December 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 50 **CORPORATIONS AND SECURITIES PANEL—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 9 December 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 51 **AUSTRALIAN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 9 December 1998—*

- Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 52 **AUSTRALIAN COMPETITION AND CONSUMER COMMISSION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 8 December 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 53 **WITNESS PROTECTION ACT—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 54 **CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 55 **INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE—CONVENTIONS CONCERNING HOME WORK—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the papers.
- 56 **OPERATION OF THE BANKRUPTCY ACT—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 57 **AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 58 **DEVELOPMENT ALLOWANCE AUTHORITY—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 59 **AUSTRALIA’S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROGRAM—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr Martin*) on the motion of Mr Downer—That the House take note of the paper.
- 60 **COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 1 December 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 61 **MEDICAL TRAINING REVIEW PANEL—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 26 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 62 **PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE OMBUDSMAN—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 26 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 63 **COMMISSIONER OF TAXATION—CORRIGENDA—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 26 November 1998—*

Mr McMullan) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.

- 64 **NATIONAL RAIL CORPORATION LTD—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 25 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 65 **NUCLEAR SAFETY BUREAU—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 24 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 66 **CONTROLLED OPERATIONS—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 24 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 67 **OPERATIONS OF THE REGISTERED HEALTH BENEFIT ORGANISATIONS—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 24 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 68 **PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 24 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 69 **AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 24 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 70 **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 24 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 71 **MEDIBANK PRIVATE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 24 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 72 **MEDIBANK PRIVATE—STATEMENT OF CORPORATE INTENT—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 24 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 73 **HEALTH INSURANCE COMMISSION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 24 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 74 **AUSTRALIAN SECURITIES AND INVESTMENT COMMISSION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 12 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 75 **LAND AND WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 12 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.

- 76 **ADVANCE TO THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE, JULY 1998—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Resumption of debate (*from 12 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the papers.
- 77 **FINAL BUDGET OUTCOME 1997-98—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 78 **COMMONWEALTH GRANTS COMMISSION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 79 **WOOL INTERNATIONAL—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 80 **DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND ENERGY—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 81 **AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 82 **COMMISSIONER FOR SUPERANNUATION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 83 **PUBLIC SECTOR SUPERANNUATION SCHEME—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 84 **COMMONWEALTH SUPERANNUATION SCHEME—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 85 **MILITARY SUPERANNUATION AND BENEFITS BOARD—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 86 **DEFENCE FORCE RETIREMENT AND DEATH BENEFITS AUTHORITY—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 87 **COMMISSIONER OF TAXATION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.

- 88 **DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND TOURISM—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 89 **OFFICE OF ASSET SALES AND IT OUTSOURCING—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 90 **DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 91 **CENTRELINK—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 92 **OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 93 **ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 94 **MARITIME INDUSTRY FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 95 **COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND INFORMATION PROGRAM ON TAXATION REFORM—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 96 **JOINT COAL BOARD—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 97 **ADVANCE TO THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE, JUNE 1998—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 98 **PROVISION FOR RUNNING COSTS BORROWINGS, JUNE 1998—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 99 **NATIONAL COMPETITION COUNCIL—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.

100 **TARIFF PROPOSALS** (*Mr Slipper*):

Customs Tariff Proposals Nos. 6 to 10 (1998)—*moved 24 November 1998*—Resumption of debate (*Mr K. J. Thomson*).

101 **PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS BROADCASTING AMENDMENT BILL 1998**: Second reading (*from 10 November 1998*).**Contingent notices of motion**

Contingent on any bill being brought in and read a first time: Minister to move—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the second reading being made an order of the day for a later hour.

Contingent on any report relating to a bill being received from the Main Committee: Minister to move—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the remaining stages being passed without delay.

Contingent on any bill being agreed to at the conclusion of the consideration in detail stage: Minister to move—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the motion for the third reading being moved without delay.

Contingent on any message being received from the Senate transmitting any bill for concurrence: Minister to move—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the bill being passed through all its stages without delay.

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**—*continued***Notices**—*continued*1 **MR ALBANESE**: To move—That this House:

- (1) recognises the importance of affordable, quality child care for Australian parents;
- (2) deplores the lack of childcare facilities available to Members, Senators and staff working at Parliament House, noting that this lack of workplace child care has led to increased difficulties for parents working at Parliament House following the Coalition's attacks on child care over the past 3 years;
- (3) condemns the Howard Government for its massive attacks on child care and notes that in the course of the first Howard Government childcare funding was slashed by a total of \$800 million; and
- (4) expresses its concern that these cuts have resulted in fee rises, the closure of childcare centres and women being forced out of the paid workforce, instead of providing families with a choice about how they care for their children. (*Notice given 12 November 1998. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 4 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)

2 **MR MOSSFIELD**: To move—That this House:

- (1) notes the decline in home ownership in Australia;

- (2) agrees to refer the issue of declining home ownership to the Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs to consider ways of increasing home ownership in Australia; and
 - (3) determines that, as well as the general reference; the standing committee inquire into the feasibility of the use of the family payment for the purpose of the deposit for a first family home and particularly examine how this might assist low income families to purchase their own home. (*Notice given 12 November 1998. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 4 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)
- 3 **MR ANDREN:** To move—That this House:
- (1) notes the discrepancies and contradictions in expert assessments of Australia's optimum population;
 - (2) recognises the damage caused to the nation's social fabric by ill-informed and emotive comments on the nation's immigration program;
 - (3) notes that population growth is ultimately a product of fertility rates and levels of net immigration, while acknowledging that Australia has a limited carrying capacity, both ecologically and economically;
 - (4) notes that without a population policy Australia risks a continuation of the divisive scapegoating of minority ethnic groups; and
 - (5) calls for the convening of a national population forum to consider and propose a population policy for Australia and the social and concrete infrastructure required to sustain that population. (*Notice given 24 November 1998. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 4 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)
- 4 **DR THEOPHANOUS:** To move—That this House:
- (1) acknowledges the importance of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and reaffirms the commitment of the Australian people to that Declaration;
 - (2) affirms the principle that those guilty of gross abuses of human rights, especially genocide, torture and arbitrary killing of political opponents should be brought to account before the international community;
 - (3) welcomes, on the basis of this principle, the decision of the British House of Lords not to grant immunity from prosecution to the former Chilean dictator, Augusto Pinochet, who has been accused of many crimes during the period of his reign;
 - (4) calls upon the British Government to now act to expedite the extradition of Mr Pinochet to Spain, where the courts are seeking to prosecute him for such crimes; and
 - (5) acknowledging that there are many Chilean Australians whose relatives have been killed or disappeared under Pinochet's rule, calls on the Australian Government to actively support the extradition of Mr Pinochet to Spain and to support all actions to ensure Mr Pinochet is brought to account for his actions. (*Notice given 30 November 1998. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 5 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)

5 **MR ANDREN:** To move—That this House:

- (1) notes the article in the *Canberra Times* of 14 November 1998 and the feature broadcast on 3 December 1998 by 'A Current Affair' alleging the profligacy of the Parliament's corporate administration;
- (2) notes the considerable achievements of parliamentary staff in providing support services to honourable members under the present five department structure;
- (3) notes the history of failed attempts to amalgamate the parliamentary departments dating back to 1910 that have failed because of either political factors or bureaucratic opposition to change;
- (4) notes the reported savings made by several Commonwealth agencies, including the Departments of Defence and the Prime Minister and Cabinet, by the use of organisational restructuring and competitive tendering and contracting arrangements for the provision of corporate support services;
- (5) agrees that the Commonwealth Parliament, as the pre-eminent institution of public sector accountability, should have a support structure that meets the requirements of economy, efficiency and effectiveness it expects and demands of all publicly funded agencies;
- (6) agrees that there is scope for rationalising the present five departmental structure to achieve cost savings that can be re-allocated to needy areas of public expenditure; and
- (7) requests the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, as the audit committee for the Parliament, to initiate an efficiency audit of the current parliamentary corporate support arrangements. (*Notice given 9 December 1998. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 6 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)

6 **MR BEVIS:** To move—That the Workplace Relations Amendment Regulations, as contained in Statutory Rules 1998, Nos. 338 and 353, made under the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*, be disallowed. (*Notice given 8 February 1999. Regulations will be deemed to have been disallowed unless the motion is disposed of within 8 sitting days, including today.*)

7 **MR PYNE:** To move—That the House:

- (1) condemns the inappropriate use of resources by some student unions;
- (2) opposes students being forced to fund student union political activity as a prerequisite for entry to university;
- (3) acknowledges that all citizens, including students, should be free to choose whether or not they want to belong to a union; and
- (4) notes the contribution that responsive and responsible student unions can make to university campuses. (*Notice given 8 February 1999. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)

8 **MR MOSSFIELD:** To move—That this House:

- (1) notes that 1999 is the International Year of the Older Persons;
- (2) notes the large number of middle-aged persons who have been retrenched in Australia and who have little chance of obtaining further employment;

- (3) recognises that aged care services should provide a continuity of care in which services come to the people;
 - (4) further recognises that many older persons who have been retrenched will have used up their superannuation entitlements by retiring age and will need to fall back on the aged pension; and
 - (5) agrees that more work needs to be done to preserve Australian jobs, so that people are free to make their own retirement decisions based on quality of life issues rather than be forced to retire due to a management decision of their employer. (*Notice given 10 February 1999. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)
- 9 **MR HOLLIS:** To move—That the Public Works Committee Amendment Regulations 1998 (No. 1), as contained in Statutory Rules 1998 No. 310, made under the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, be disallowed. (*Notice given 11 February 1999. Regulations will be deemed to have been disallowed unless the motion is disposed of within 11 sitting days, including today.*)
- 10 **DR THEOPHANOUS:** To move—That the House:
- (1) views with concern the continuing reductions in net immigration to Australia over the last few years, in particular the impact of these cuts on economic development, family reunion and humanitarian programs;
 - (2) notes that there are now calls for an increase in immigration from a diversity of sectors in the Australian community, such as industry, ethnic community organisations and political leaders;
 - (3) recognises the enduring importance of immigration to the development of Australia and to the maintenance of Australia's multicultural identity; and
 - (4) calls upon the Government to substantially increase immigration in this planning year and to initiate an inquiry to the viability of fixing a five year increased immigration target, as suggested by industry groups and others. (*Notice given 15 February 1999. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)
- 11 **MR CADMAN:** To move—That the House:
- (1) endorses the continuing protection of the law to prevent discrimination in the workplace;
 - (2) acknowledges the disproportionate impact of unfair dismissal laws on the confidence of small business employers to employ additional people to their workforce;
 - (3) condemns the continuation of unfair dismissal laws for businesses employing fewer than fifteen people; and
 - (4) calls on the Senate to reverse its opposition to the removal of unfair dismissal laws. (*Notice given 15 February 1999. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)

Orders of the day

- 1 **INSURANCE INDUSTRY:** Resumption of debate (*from 30 November 1998—Mr Snowdon, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Martin—That this Parliament calls for the referral of an inquiry into the Australian insurance industry to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Financial Institutions and Public Administration and the issues to be considered to include:
 - (a) the moral and legal responsibility of insurance companies to honour policies in respect of storm damage and flood;
 - (b) necessary legislative change to ensure pedantic definitional arguments are not used by companies to negate payments to policy holders;
 - (c) the examination of the legislative base in the provision of flood insurance in the USA and UK and its potential relevance to Australia;
 - (d) the ways in which insurance companies approached the interpretation of storm and flood damage in recent disasters in Wollongong, Katherine, Coffs Harbour and Townsville; and
 - (e) existing Commonwealth and State or Territory government legislative support mechanisms to assist areas and victims affected by such disasters and whether changes are necessary to ensure rapid and effective relief. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 5 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)
- 2 **IRANIAN BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY:** Resumption of debate (*from 30 November 1998*) on the motion of Mrs Gallus—That this House:
 - (1) strongly condemns the recent grave attacks on the Iranian Baha'i community, including the brutal execution of Mr Ruhullah Rawhani in July in the absence of due legal process, raids on 500 Baha'i homes in an orchestrated nation-wide attempt to prevent Baha'i youth from receiving education, confirmation of death sentences against two Baha'i men and the detention and imprisonment of 16 other Baha'is for practising their faith;
 - (2) calls on the Government of Iran to end its oppression of the Baha'i community, ensure the safety and early release of all those Baha'is imprisoned in Iran, immediately take steps to implement UN resolutions defining steps required of the Iranian Government and calling for the emancipation of the Baha'is and respect the principles of the International Covenants on Human Rights to which Iran is a party; and
 - (3) expresses its deep disappointment that despite the consideration of this matter by both Houses of the Australian Parliament last year, the Iranian Government, far from taking action to remedy the situation, has intensified its persecution of Baha'is. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 5 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)
- 3 **LABELLING OF AUSTRALIAN GOODS:** Resumption of debate (*from 30 November 1998*) on the motion of Ms Bailey—That this House:
 - (1) recognises the importance of labelling to both industry and consumers;
 - (2) acknowledges that the label 'Product of Australia' is the premium label for Australian goods; and

- (3) calls on the Government to ensure that there is clear definition and understanding of the 'Made in Australia' label by both industry and consumers. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 5 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)
- 4 **SUPERANNUATION (ENTITLEMENTS OF SAME SEX COUPLES) BILL 1998** (*Mr Albanese*): Second reading (*from 7 December 1998*). (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 6 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)
- 5 **REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENTS:** Resumption of debate (*from 7 December 1998*) on the motion of Mr Nehl—That this House:
- (1) regrets that the action of the NSW Government in progressing the regional forest agreements for north-east and lower north-east New South Wales has forced the Commonwealth Government to withdraw funding of \$40 million; and
 - (2) calls on the NSW Government to act with responsibility to protect the future of the forest industry. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 6 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)
- 6 **AUSTRALIA-TURKEY RELATIONS:** Resumption of debate (*from 7 December 1998*) on the motion of Mr Sercombe—That this House notes:
- (1) the special relationship between Australia and Turkey, which developed out of mutual respect engendered by the horrific experiences of the First World War;
 - (2) that Turkey is a modern, secular state with which Australia should further enhance relations;
 - (3) the importance of Turkey as a trade and investment partner in its own right and as a base for Australian trade efforts in the Middle East and Central Asia;
 - (4) the significant contribution of Turkish migration to Australia's economic, social and cultural development; and
 - (5) that Turkish speaking residents of Australia have contributed significantly to the Australian community by their approach to potentially divisive issues that could undermine harmony in our multicultural society. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 6 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)
- 7 **BANK CLOSURES:** Resumption of debate (*from 7 December 1998*) on the motion of Mr Mossfield—That this House:
- (1) notes the increasing number of closures of bank branches within the Australian community;
 - (2) agrees to refer the issue of bank closures to the Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs to take evidence as appropriate and consider appropriate recommendations to place before the House; and
 - (3) determines that, as well as the general reference, the standing committee also inquire into and report on the increasing number of service reductions

within communities and the increasing difficulties with which remaining services are able to be contacted by local residents where services are reduced or removed. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 6 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)

- 8 **RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE:** Resumption of debate (*from 8 February 1999—Mr Hardgrave, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Neville—That this House:
- (1) draws the attention of the Government to the condition of the national rail track;
 - (2) commends the Government for its commitment of \$250 million to rail infrastructure but asks that it be expanded;
 - (3) calls for the declaration of national rail highway from Brisbane to Perth; and
 - (4) seeks removal of impediments to a seamless interstate rail system. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)
- 9 **HOUSE SITTING ARRANGEMENTS:** Resumption of debate (*from 8 February 1999*) on the motion of Ms Hoare—That the House:
- (1) reverts to the previous sitting arrangements introduced in 1994, which were abandoned by this Government in 1996, to allow for a more family-friendly workplace;
 - (2) notes the increased number of Members since the election, on both sides of the House, who have young families and/or recently formed partnerships;
 - (3) also notes the hundreds of Members' staff who are required to be here to work while the House sits until 11 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday evenings and the effect that these absurd working hours has on their families and private lives; and
 - (4) also notes that if it were to revert to the previous sitting pattern which includes sitting from the day's commencement through until adjournment at 8 p.m. there will be a loss of only three sitting hours per week in the House of Representatives chamber. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)
- 10 **PROSTATE CANCER:** Resumption of debate (*from 8 February 1999*) on the motion of Mr Brough—That this House:
- (1) places on record concern about the lack of awareness in the community of prostate cancer;
 - (2) notes that the number of deaths per year ascribed to prostate cancer has nearly doubled, rising from 1355 in 1982 to 2660 in 1996; and
 - (3) calls on the Government to support the designation of one day or week per year as National Prostate Cancer Day/Week as a means of heightening awareness. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)
- 11 **BREAST CANCER:** Resumption of debate (*from 15 February 1999*) on the motion of Mr Schultz—That this House:

- (1) places on record concern about the lack of sufficient funding for clinical trials for the treatment and prevention of breast cancer;
 - (2) notes that over 8000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 1998 and that over 2700 women will die of breast cancer in that year; and
 - (3) calls on the Government to consider infrastructure funding which will give the foundation and security for planning and completion of quality, evidence-based research. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)
- 12 **MILITARY PERSONNEL EXPOSED TO RADIATION:** Resumption of debate (*from 15 February 1999—Mr Snowden, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr L. D. T. Ferguson—That this House:
- (1) notes that the Royal Commission into British Nuclear Tests in Australia concluded that the 1983 Survey of Health of Former Atomic Test Personnel cannot be regarded as an adequate epidemiological study;
 - (2) expresses concern that there has been no further official study into the health and mortality of Australian personnel who participated in British nuclear tests and subsequent clean-up operations;
 - (3) acknowledges that the USA accepts as radiogenic a range of cancers and other conditions experienced by military personnel who were exposed to ionising radiation;
 - (4) notes that studies of British nuclear veterans have been conducted by the UK National Radiological Protection Board in 1988 and 1993 and, more recently, through Dundee University for the British Nuclear Tests Veterans Association;
 - (5) calls on the Minister for Defence to commission as a matter of urgency a rigorous health and mortality study of Australian atomic ex-service personnel and their children and grandchildren; and
 - (6) supports the involvement of independent researchers and representatives of the ex-service community in the design and conduct of such a study. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)
- 13 **FOOD REGULATORY SYSTEM:** Resumption of debate (*from 15 February 1999*) on the motion of Ms Bailey—That this House:
- (1) recognises that food is a growth industry;
 - (2) acknowledges that the ‘food industry’ comprises primary industry production, processing and manufacturing, retail and catering; and
 - (3) calls on the Government to ensure a national uniform food regulatory system. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)
- 14 **PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND STAFFING:** Resumption of debate (*from 15 February 1999*) on the motion of Mr Price—
- (1) That a Standing Committee on Appropriations and Staffing be appointed to inquire into:

- (a) proposals for the annual estimates and the additional estimates for the House of Representatives;
 - (b) proposals to vary the staff structure of the House of Representatives, and staffing and recruitment policies; and
 - (c) such other matters as are referred to it by the House;
- (2) That the committee shall:
- (a) in relation to estimates—
 - (i) determine the amounts for inclusion in the parliamentary appropriation bills for the annual and the additional appropriations; and
 - (ii) report to the House upon its determinations prior to the consideration by the House of the relevant parliamentary appropriation bill; and
 - (b) in relation to staffing—
 - (i) make recommendations to the Speaker; and
 - (ii) report to the House on any matter its determinations prior to the consideration by the House of the relevant parliamentary appropriation bill;
- (3) That the committee consist of the Speaker and 11 other members, 6 members to be nominated by the Chief Government Whip or Whips and 5 members to be nominated by the Chief Opposition Whip or Whips or any independent Member;
- (4) That the committee elect a Government member as its chair;
- (5) That the committee elect a deputy chairman who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chairman at that meeting;
- (6) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine;
- (7) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only, and at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting;
- (8) That the quorum of a subcommittee be a majority of the members of that subcommittee;
- (9) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the public proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum;
- (10) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to send for persons, papers and records;
- (11) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to move from place to place;

- (12) That a subcommittee have power to adjourn from time to time and to sit during any sittings or adjournment of the House;
 - (13) That the committee have leave to report from time to time; and
 - (14) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)
- 15 **PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER 28B:** Resumption of debate (*from 15 February 1999*) on the motion of Mr Price—
- (1) That standing order 28B be amended by inserting the following paragraph after paragraph (b):
 - (*ba*) annual and additional estimates contained in the appropriation bills presented to the House shall stand referred for consideration by Members of the relevant committee (as determined in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b) for the consideration of annual reports), and, for the purposes of this consideration:
 - (i) six Members of each committee, determined by the committee in each case, shall consider the estimates;
 - (ii) the Members of the committee selected to consider the estimates shall meet with Members of the relevant Senate legislation committee so that the Members and Senators may meet together for the purposes of considering the estimates;
 - (iii) members of the relevant House and Senate committees, when meeting together to consider estimates, shall choose a Member or a Senator to chair the joint meetings;
 - (iv) the provisions of Senate standing order 26 shall, to the extent that they are applicable, apply to the consideration of estimates under this paragraph, and
 - (v) that, upon the completion of joint meetings at which evidence is received or written answers or additional information considered, it shall then be a matter for the Members of the relevant committee to consider the terms of any report to the House on the estimates.
 - (2) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)

- 16 **PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER 94:** Resumption of debate (*from 15 February 1999*) on the motion of Mr Price—That the standing orders be amended by amending standing order 94 to read as follows:

Closure of Member

94 A motion may be made that a Member who is speaking, except a Member giving a notice of motion or formally moving the terms of a motion allowed under the standing orders or speaking to a motion of dissent (from any ruling of the Speaker under standing order 100), “be not further heard”, and such

question shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)

- 17 **PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER 129:** Resumption of debate (*from 15 February 1999*) on the motion of Mr Price—That standing order 129 be omitted and the following standing order substituted:

Presentation of petitions

129 At the time provided for the presentation of petitions, the following arrangements shall apply to the presentation of petitions certified to be in conformity with the standing orders:

- (a) in respect of each petition, the petitioner, or one of the petitioners, may present the petition to the House by standing at the Bar of the House and reading to the House the prayer of the petition, and
 - (b) where a petitioner is not able to present the petition in accordance with paragraph (a) of this standing order, the Member who has lodged the petition may present it to the House by reading to the House the prayer of the petition. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)
- 18 **PROPOSED NEW STANDING ORDER 143A:** Resumption of debate (*from 15 February 1999*) on the motion of Mr Price—That the standing orders be amended by inserting the following standing order after standing order 143:

Questions to committee chairs

143A Questions may be put to a Member in his or her capacity as Chair of a committee of the House, or of a joint committee, in connection with the work or duties of the committee in question. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)

- 19 **PROPOSED NEW STANDING ORDER 143A:** Resumption of debate (*from 15 February 1999*) on the motion of Mr Price—That the standing orders be amended by inserting the following standing order after standing order 145:

Questions without notice—Time limits

145A During question time:

- (a) the asking of each question may not exceed 1 minute and the answering of each question may not exceed 4 minutes;
 - (b) the asking of each supplementary question may not exceed 1 minute and the answering of each supplementary question may not exceed 1 minute; and
 - (c) the time taken to make and determine points of order is not to be regarded as part of the time for questions and answers. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)
- 20 **PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER 275A:** Resumption of debate (*from 15 February 1999*) on the motion of Mr Price—That standing order 275A be omitted and the following standing order be substituted:

Statements by Members

275A Notwithstanding standing order 275, when the Main Committee meets on a Thursday, the business before the Committee shall be interrupted at 1 p.m. and the Chair shall call for statements by Members. A Member, other than a Minister, may be called by the Chair to make a statement for a period not exceeding 3 minutes. The period for Members' statements may continue for a maximum of 1 hour. Any business under discussion at 1 p.m. and interrupted under the provisions of this standing order shall be set down on the Notice Paper for the next sitting. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 8 March 1999.*)

COMMITTEE AND DELEGATION REPORTS (standing orders 102A and 102C): Presentation and consideration of committee and delegation reports has precedence until 1.15 p.m. each Monday.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS (standing orders 104 and 101) has precedence from the conclusion of consideration of committee and delegation reports, but commencing no later than 1.15 p.m., being interrupted at 1.45 p.m. and then continuing for 1 hour after the presentation of petitions each Monday.

The **SELECTION COMMITTEE** is responsible for determining the order of precedence and allotting time for debate on consideration of committee and delegation reports and private Members' business. Its determinations for today are shown under "Business accorded priority for this sitting". Any private Members' business not called on, or consideration of which has been interrupted and not re-accorded priority by the Selection Committee on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays, shall be removed from the Notice Paper (standing order 104B).

BUSINESS OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE**GOVERNMENT BUSINESS****Orders of the day**

- 1 **INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 18 February 1999—Mr McMullan*).
 - 2 **QUARANTINE AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Ms Macklin*).
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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

On the first sitting day of each week, a complete Notice Paper is published containing all unanswered questions. On subsequent days, only new questions for the week are included on the Notice Paper.

First appeared on date shown

11 November 1998

1 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) What percentage of the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) budget is directed to (a) compliance activity, (b) audit activity and (c) research into and implementation of tax reform projects.
- (2) Has the Government directed the ATO to concentrate more staff and funds in the area of tax reform; if so, has extra funding been provided to the ATO for the purpose.
- (3) Will the Government provide more funding to the ATO for compliance and audit activities.

8 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) What sum did the Commonwealth contribute towards funding Victoria's public hospitals in 1991-92 and each subsequent financial year.
- (2) Is he able to say what sum the Victorian Government contributed towards funding Victoria's public hospitals in 1991-92 and each subsequent financial year.
- (3) Is he also able to say what total sum was spent on funding Victoria's public hospitals in 1991-92 and each subsequent financial year.

MR LATHAM: To ask the Ministers listed below (questions Nos. 25 and 29)—

- (1) What measures has the Minister's Department undertaken which are categorised as positive discrimination programs, that is, providing preference to certain citizens on the basis of their gender, sexuality, age, race, place of birth or some other personal characteristic.
- (2) What are the details and funding commitments involved in each case.

25 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services.

29 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Finance and Administration.

43 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) What sum did the Commonwealth contribute towards funding New South Wales' public hospitals in 1991-92 and in each subsequent financial year.
- (2) Is he able to say what sum the New South Wales Government contributed towards funding New South Wales' public hospitals in 1991-92 and in each subsequent financial year.
- (3) Is he also able to say what total sum was spent on funding New South Wales' public hospitals in 1991-92 and in each subsequent financial year.

- 48 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs— What institutions other than those mentioned in the answer to question No. 2826 (*Hansard*, 30 June 1998, page 5535), have been approached to return Aboriginal human remains to Australia but have not agreed to return them.
- 61 **MRS CROSIO:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Justice and Customs—
- (1) Is the Minister able to say, according to the most recent figures, (a) how many pirate CDs Australian Customs has seized coming into Australia and (b) the estimated value of the material seized, since the Government approved the parallel importation of CDs; if not, why not.
 - (2) Has the Government allocated extra resources or funding to Australian Customs for the detection and confiscation of imported pirate CDs; if not, why not.
 - (3) Is Australian Customs conducting an operation specifically designed to detect and seize imported pirate CDs; if not, why not; if so, (a) what is the name of the operation, (b) when did it begin, (c) how many staff have been allocated to work on the operation, (d) is the operation ongoing or does it have a scheduled end-date and (e) what is its budget.
 - (4) Has the Minister directed Australian Customs to be alert specifically for imported pirate CDs since the Government approved parallel importation; if so, when was the direction made; if not, (a) why not and (b) will the Minister direct them accordingly.
 - (5) Has the Minister's attention been drawn to comments by Mr Michael Speck, Manager of Music Industry Piracy Investigations (MIPI), that triad gangs controlling CD distribution in Asia have unwittingly been granted an entry into the Australian music market by the Government's approval of parallel importation; if so, what is the Minister's response; if not, will the Minister examine the comments and respond; if not, why not.
 - (6) Has Australian Customs or the Australian Federal Police uncovered or detected any evidence to suggest that organised crime is importing pirate CDs following the Government's approval of parallel importation; if so, will the Minister provide details.
 - (7) Is Australian Customs' staff working with staff of MIPI, on any level, to detect and seize imported pirate CDs being imported into Australia; if not, (a) why not and (b) will the Minister direct Australian Customs to work with MIPI and coordinate its operations more closely with the agency; if not, why not.

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- 71 **MR KERR:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) What sum did the Commonwealth contribute towards funding Tasmania's public hospitals in 1991-92 and each subsequent financial year.
 - (2) Is he able to say what sum the Tasmanian Government contributed towards funding Tasmania's public hospitals in 1991-92 and each subsequent financial year.

- (3) Is he able to say what total sum was spent on funding Tasmania's public hospitals in 1991-92 and each subsequent financial year.

77 **MRS CROSIO:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) According to the most recent information, what sum has been approved for projects under the Federation Fund (a) in total and (b) for each electoral division.
- (2) Will he provide a list showing the (a) name of each project for which funding has been approved, (b) date of approval and (c) sum to be received; if not, why not.
- (3) When will the process of approving projects for the allocation of funds under the Federation Fund be completed.
- (4) Will he explain the selection process by which each successful Federation Fund project is approved; if not, why not; if so, (a) is there a selection panel involved, (b) who are the individuals on the selection panel, (c) who chairs the selection panel, (d) are members on the panel remunerated for their work or do they participate in an entirely voluntary capacity and (e) if remuneration occurs, (i) what form does it take, (ii) what sum does each receive and (iii) how regularly is it received.

78 **MR BEVIS:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) What sum did the Commonwealth contribute towards funding Queensland's public hospitals in 1991-92 and each subsequent financial year.
- (2) Is he able to say what sum the Queensland Government contributed towards funding Queensland's public hospitals in 1991-92 and each subsequent financial year.
- (3) Is he able to say what total sum was spent on funding Queensland's public hospitals in 1991-92 and each subsequent financial year.

23 November 1998

82 **MRS CROSIO:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) What Commonwealth funding was provided in each financial year since 2 March 1996 directly to projects or programs operating in the electoral divisions of (a) Prospect, (b) Fowler, (c) Reid, (d) Chifley, (e) Lindsay, (f) Werriwa, (g) Greenway, (h) Blaxland and (i) Parramatta with the purpose of (i) combating or (ii) preventing the negative health effects of opiate addiction.
- (2) With respect to each project or program referred to in part (1), (a) what is its name, (b) who operates it, (c) what are its aims and objectives, (d) what funding has it received and (e) in what year did Commonwealth funding commence.
- (3) Has Commonwealth funding or resources been allocated to assist State and Territory governments carry out rapid detoxification trials or programs since 2 March 1996; if so, (a) what funding or resources have been allocated and (b) why did the Commonwealth allocate the funding or resources.
- (4) Will he act to regulate the proliferation in Australia of private health clinics and organisations offering opiate addicts rapid detoxification cures before

clinical trials of rapid detoxificants are completed by State and Territory authorities; if not, why not; if so, what action will he take.

- (5) Has his attention been drawn to the fact that (a) opiate addicts undergoing rapid detoxification treatment in private clinics are paying up to \$10 000 for the treatment which is not recoverable under private health insurance or Medicare, (b) rapid detoxification treatments, such as Naltrexone, are being marketed to the Australian public by private health clinics as instant cures when the actual cure rate is less than 50 per cent and (c) unscrupulous profiteers are moving into the rapid detoxification treatment industry without having the necessary expertise or experience; if so, will he act to regulate the (i) proliferation and (ii) advertising claims and marketing practices of the rapid detoxification industry; if not, why not.
 - (6) What legal requirements and obligations apply to operators of rapid detoxification treatment programs and how are they enforced.
 - (7) Are the requirements referred to in part (a) sufficient and (b) being policed effectively; if so, why; if not, why not.
 - (8) Has his attention been drawn to comments by Dr Alex Wodak, Director of Alcohol and Drug Services at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, and NSW State MP, Mr Bill Rixon, that there is a black market in rapid opiate detoxificants such as Naltrexone; if so, will he act to combat the black market; if not, why not.
 - (9) Will he provide the name of every (a) individual, (b) organisation, or (c) company that has registered concern with his office over the use of Naltrexone and other rapid detoxificants to treat opiate addicts in Australia; if not, why not.
 - (10) Did he register concern with the Western Australian Government over its failure to adequately regulate a private trial of the drug Naltrexone by Dr George O'Neil; if so, (a) why did he register concern and (b) did four patients associated with Dr O'Neil's trial die.
 - (11) Is the level of WA Government regulation governing Dr O'Neil's practice adequate; if so, why; if not, why not.
- 83 **MRS CROSIO:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) Has he monitored the actions the Swiss Government is taking to fight opiate addiction and the trade in illicit drugs following the completion of its three year, state-provided heroin trial; if not, why not.
 - (2) Is it a fact that the trial's results concluded that giving prescribed amounts of heroin to addicts (a) improved their health, (b) cut crime rates and (c) saved society money.
 - (3) Is it also a fact that following the trial's completion, the Swiss Government has committed itself to operating a permanent program that prescribes heroin to certain addicts under medical supervision; if so, does he support the Swiss Government's actions.
 - (4) Is it also a fact that the Netherlands Government is carrying out an organised trial of prescribing heroin to addicts; if so, (a) when did it start, (b) when will it finish, (c) is he able to provide preliminary results from the trial and (d) will he monitor its results; if not, why not.

- (5) Is he able to provide information on other national governments (a) involved in or (b) having completed a trial that prescribes heroin to addicts as a means of controlling drug addiction and limiting the illegal drug trade's impact on society.

85 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) What was the total cost to the (a) Commonwealth and (b) Australian Taxation Office (ATO) of implementing the superannuation contributions surcharge including salaries, systems, advertising, liaison, outrider agency costs, legal and accounting.
- (2) What is the estimated cost to the superannuation industry of implementing the surcharge provisions.
- (3) What sum was collected from surchargeable contributions in 1997-98.
- (4) What sum is estimated to be collected from surchargeable contributions in (a) 1998-99, (b) 1999-2000 and (c) 2000-2001.
- (5) How many dead persons (a) have been levied with the surcharge and (b) will be required to pay the advance instalment.
- (6) What special arrangements have been made to allow dead persons to recover the advance surcharge instalment.
- (7) What are the details of the test cases the ATO is running on the surcharge and what will the test cases cost.
- (8) How many due surcharge assessments had not been issued by the ATO as at 12 November 1998.
- (9) How many surcharge assessments were issued to persons who did not provide their tax file number to their superannuation fund or the ATO.
- (10) What is the estimated number of persons who have been issued with a surcharge assessment but who earn less than the threshold income.

90 **MR ANDREN:** To ask the Minister representing the Special Minister of State—

- (1) What sum did his Department pay in (a) overtime and (b) travel allowance to (i) personal and (ii) electorate staff of each incumbent Member and Senator between 31 August and 3 October 1998.
- (2) What was the average monthly sum of (a) overtime and (b) travel allowance paid by his Department to (i) personal and (ii) electoral staff of each sitting Member and Senator in 1997-98.

91 **MR ANDREN:** To ask the Minister for Aged Care—

- (1) Will the Government act on the Productivity Commission's proposals on the funding of nursing homes.
- (2) Did the Productivity Commission propose in respect of nursing homes that (a) Government funding be sufficient and (b) the industry have adequate and appropriate representation to assist the Government implement changes; if so, will the Government adopt the proposals and, if so, how.
- (3) Did the Productivity Commission propose that coalescence should not proceed in its current form; if so, will she ensure that high-care nursing homes in New South Wales are refunded for the coalescence factor implemented from 1 July 1998.

- (4) Will the Government address an anomaly in the subsidy rates relating to Other Cost Reimbursed Expenditure for New South Wales.
- (5) Did the Productivity Commission identify deficiencies in the hostel system similar to those in the nursing home sector; if so, how will the Government address the deficiencies.
- (6) Did the Productivity Commission propose that additional Government funding support be provided to smaller nursing homes in rural and remote areas; if so, will she ensure that the particular needs of nursing homes in regional centres, like Bathurst and Orange, also receive additional funding.
- (7) Is it a fact that various State-related charges are not recognised in funding but have a significant impact on the viability of aged care facilities; if so, how will the Government take the charges into account.

100 **MR JENKINS:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services—On most recent data, what sum in childcare assistance per child per annum was allocated to (a) family, (b) private long and (c) community long day care in (i) Australia, (ii) Victoria and (iii) the postcode areas of (A) 3074, (B) 3075, (C) 3076, (D) 3082, (E) 3083, (F) 3087, (G) 3088, (H) 3089, (I) 3090 and (J) 3752.

107 **MR JENKINS:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government—What sums were allocated in local government financial assistance grants in (a) 1995-96, (b) 1996-97 and (c) 1997-98 to the (i) City of Whittlesea, (ii) City of Banyule, (iii) Shire of Nillumbuk and (iv) City of Darebin.

MR M. J. FERGUSON: To ask the Ministers listed below (questions Nos. 109-126)—Did the Minister, his or her predecessor or his or her Department appoint a (a) former member of the Commonwealth Parliament or (b) member of the secretariats of the national offices of the Liberal Party of Australia, National Party of Australia, Australian Labor Party, Australian Democrats or Australian Greens as a (i) statutory appointment, (ii) consultant or (iii) other appointment to government boards or posts between 30 April 1996 and 31 August 1998; if so, in each case, (A) what was the person's name and the position to which he or she was appointed, (B) to which political party was he or she affiliated, (C) what remuneration was involved, (D) was the appointment (I) full-time, (II) part-time or (III) casual, (E) what fees were applicable and (F) with respect to (I) travel allowance, (II) vehicles, (III) telephones and (IV) attendance fees, (aa) what entitlements were claimable, (ab) how often were entitlements claimed and (ac) what sum was paid under each entitlement.

109 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Prime Minister.

110 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Trade.

111 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Treasurer.

112 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services.

113 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage.

115 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business.

- 116 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services.
- 117 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs.
- 118 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Defence.
- 120 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Finance and Administration.
- 121 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs.
- 122 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources.
- 123 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Attorney-General.
- 126 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Veterans' Affairs.
- 128 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs—
- (1) How many applications did his Department receive for the National Youth Roundtable before the original October 1998 deadline.
 - (2) What was the (a) age and (b) place and State of residence of each applicant referred to in part (1).
 - (3) Will the applications received before the October deadline be accorded priority over later applications.

24 November 1998

- 141 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs—
- (1) Did Australia accede on 6 August 1986 to Unesco's 1979 Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belonging to the Europe Region.
 - (2) Was Australia the first country outside Europe to become a party to the convention.
 - (3) Which other countries outside Europe have acceded to the convention and when did they do so.
 - (4) Did Germany become a party to the convention on 8 December 1994.
 - (5) Was Germany the last country in Europe to become a party to the convention.
 - (6) Was a memorandum of understanding on recognition of academic qualifications signed in Canberra on 29 September 1998 between the Australian Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs and the Secretariat of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the German Länder.
 - (7) What steps has Australia taken towards concluding such memorandums with other parties to the convention.
- 146 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 2452 (*Hansard*, 2 March 1998, page 150), what were the dates of the correspondence which Airservices Australia received from the professional organisation representing air traffic

controllers at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport between April 1996 and May 1997.

- (2) Has he, his predecessor, his Department or Airservices Australia received further correspondence from the professional organisation since May 1997 regarding the operation of the Long Term Operating Plan at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport; if so, (a) what were the dates of the correspondence, (b) what was its subject matter and (c) what was the response.

147 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 2453 (*Hansard*, 2 March 1998, page 150), will he advise of the dates on which he, his predecessor, his Department or Airservices Australia received complaints from the Australian International Pilots Association regarding the use of the East-West runway at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport in cross wind conditions in excess of 15 knots.
- (2) What was the nature of the complaints referred to in part (1) and what was the response in each case.

148 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services— Will he provide up-to-date information on the number of aborted take-offs at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport since the answer to question No. 1734 (*Hansard*, 2 March 1998, page 151).

149 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services— Further to the answer to question No. 2615 (*Hansard*, 28 May 1998, page 4224), in the period since the Long Term Operating Plan for Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport was adopted on how many occasions have aircraft landed in cross winds in excess of 15 knots and what were the circumstances in which the landings occurred.

150 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services— Further to the answer to question No. 2615 (*Hansard*, 28 May 1998, page 4224), on how many occasions have aircraft taken off in cross winds in excess of 15 knots since the Long Term Operating Plan at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport was adopted and what were the circumstances in which the take-offs occurred.

151 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services— Further to the answer to question No. 2616 (*Hansard*, 28 May 1998, page 4224), since the Long Term Operating Plan was adopted (a) on how many occasions have pilots nominated a runway to land their aircraft at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport which was other than that nominated by Airservices Australia and (b) what were the circumstances in each case.

152 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 2619 (*Hansard*, 24 June 1998, page 5280), how many failures to comply with air traffic control clearances occurred at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport in the two-year period before 4 February 1997.
- (2) Have failures to comply with air traffic control clearances related to directions, requests or instructions made by air traffic controllers as part of

their implementation of the Long Term Operating Plan occurred since 4 February 1997; if so, (a) how many and (b) in what circumstances.

- 154 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) Has he received submissions, representations, correspondence or other communication from Qantas Airways Limited or Ansett Australia claiming additional costs that have been incurred by the airlines as a result of the implementation of the Long Term Operating Plan (LTOP) for Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport; if so, (a) who made the submissions, representations, correspondence or other communications and (b) what additional costs were claimed to have been incurred by those airlines.
 - (2) Has his attention been drawn to Australian or overseas research identifying language differences between foreign pilots and air traffic controllers as being a significant safety issue.
 - (3) What steps has the Government implemented to address the issue referred to in part (2) in view of the complexities of the LTOP.
- 155 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) Has his attention been drawn to studies proposing that the safest mode of operation for Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport and surrounding air space is one which maintains segregated air space; if so, (a) what studies and (b) what were the major recommendations of the studies with respect to developing segregated air space.
 - (2) Has the Government abandoned the use of segregated air space at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport; if so, why.
- 157 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 2617 (*Hansard*, 28 June 1998, page 4224), what steps must be taken for Airservices Australia to obtain the information which I requested about how many times pilots have refused Long Term Operating Plan (LTOP) based landing directions and will he direct Airservices Australia to take the steps.
 - (2) Have pilots refused LTOP based take-off directions since it was implemented; if so, (a) how many times, (b) what are the details of the circumstances in which the directions were refused and (c) what reasons did pilots provide for refusing the directions.
- 158 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) What approximate quantity of fuel is carried by a Qantas Boeing 747 travelling from Sydney to Los Angeles when it takes off.
 - (2) What is the average tonnage of reserve fuel carried by a Qantas Boeing 747 landing at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport.
 - (3) Is there a greater risk of ground fatalities in an accident which involves an aircraft heavily laden with fuel.
- 162 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services— Was a Qantas passenger jet forced to take evasive action to avoid a turboprop Metroliner freight plane about 10 p.m. on 22 July 1998; if so, (a) what were the circumstances and (b) will he review operating procedures for pilots crossing

runways to ensure that pilots stop before crossing a runway and wait for permission to proceed from the control tower.

- 164 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) What infrastructure developments relating to ground or air movement of aircraft are underway at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport.
 - (2) What further developments are anticipated.
 - (3) What is the cost of the developments which are (a) underway and (b) anticipated.
 - (4) Have developments which are underway or anticipated been treated as major development proposals under the *Airports Act 1996*; if not, why not.
- 181 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) What processes were established to ensure that organisations tendering for round 13 of Home and Community Care (HACC) funding had consulted with other HACC and similar providers.
 - (2) How do tenderers demonstrate that they have consulted other providers.
 - (3) What checks does the Department of Family and Community Services make to ensure the requirement has been met.
 - (4) Is the Commonwealth reducing HACC funding to New South Wales by \$3 million in 1998-99.
 - (5) Is the Commonwealth insisting HACC client user-pay levels be raised to 20 per cent of the total program budget; if so, how will the client fee be collected from dementia sufferers.
- 184 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) Has the Rockdale Medicare Office been closed; if so, (a) was the decision to close made by (i) himself, (ii) the Health Insurance Commission (HIC) or (iii) himself in consultation with the HIC and (b) what facts and circumstances were considered in reaching the decision.
 - (2) How well was the office patronised and how did it compare to similar offices which have not been closed.
 - (3) If he consulted the HIC on the decision, (a) what was the nature of consultation, (b) when did the consultations occur and (c) did the consultations occur in the context of a predetermined Government policy as to which Medicare offices should be closed.
- 185 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—Is it a fact that most private health insurers used to provide coverage for domestic nursing care but have now removed coverage from their policies.
- 187 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—Did his office provide any direction, guidance or indication to the Health Insurance Commission on which Medicare customer service centres it should consider closing; if so, what are the details.
- 188 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 2832 (*Hansard*, 25 May 1998, page 3625), has his attention been drawn to reports that waiting times for

customers at Medicare offices have significantly increased since the recent closure of a number of Medicare customer service centres.

- (2) Will he conduct an urgent review of waiting times for Medicare offices in New South Wales.
- 194 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Attorney-General—Further to the answer to question No. 2835 (*Hansard*, 2 June 1998, page 4236), in its submission to the review of resourcing needs of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) chaired by Mr Tony Ayers, AC, what additional resources did the AFP indicate were needed to properly undertake its duties and responsibilities.
- 195 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Attorney-General—Further to the answer to question No. 2835 (*Hansard*, 2 June 1998, page 4236), has he received the report of Mr Tony Ayers, AC; if so what (a) were the major recommendations of that report and (b) is the Government's response.

25 November 1998

- 201 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Attorney-General—Will he bring up-to-date the answer to question No. 2470 (*Hansard*, 2 March 1998, page 154) concerning legislation to implement the 1948 Genocide Convention with full domestic effect.

26 November 1998

- 209 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care— Further to the answer to question no. 804 (*Hansard*, 3 December 1996, page 7604), what proportion of (a) total health expenditure in Australia was funded by health insurance funds in each year since 1994-95 and (b) recurrent health expenditure was funded by health insurance funds for (i) public hospitals, (ii) private hospitals, (iii) medical services, (iv) dental services, (v) other professional services and (vi) all other services in each year since 1994-95.

30 November 1998

- 218 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—
- (1) How many countries are a party to the Unesco Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (The Hague, 1954).
 - (2) Which countries have become a party since 1988.
 - (3) Which parties to the convention are not parties to the companion protocol.
 - (4) Did Australia send comments to the meeting of experts held in Vienna from 11 to 13 May 1998 to consider revision of the convention.
 - (5) Who will represent Australia at the Diplomatic Conference that is being convened at The Hague from 14 to 26 March with a view to adopting a new instrument complementing the provisions of the convention.
 - (6) Did Australia in July 1994 assure the USA that it was still considering whether to become a party to the protocol and that the matter was being reviewed by relevant Commonwealth and State departments.
 - (7) On what occasions and with what results has (a) Australia consulted with States and Territories and (b) his Department consulted with other Commonwealth departments concerning the protocol.

- 240 **MR L. D. T. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—
- (1) What award or other provisions for Defence Reserve leave apply to Telstra employees.
 - (2) Has Telstra management indicated that Defence Reserve leave is under review and that it is proposed to restrict each employee to a maximum of two weeks leave each year.
 - (3) Is it a fact that the system of common induction training for the Army which was introduced by the Government requires new Army Reservists to be absent from civilian employment for up to seven weeks.
 - (4) Will the circumstances described in the previous parts of this question discourage Telstra employees from enlisting in the Army Reserve; if so, is this consistent with the Government's intentions for the Army Reserve.

2 December 1998

- 248 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Financial Services and Regulation—
- (1) Does the Government support the maintenance of a secure framework of finance regulation to ensure the confidence of local and international investors.
 - (2) Did he state on the ABC radio program 'The world today' on 27 November 1998 that all financial regulation policy was under review; if so, what is the effect of the uncertainty of Australia's financial regulation framework on the confidence of local and international investors.
- 252 **MR EDWARDS:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Justice and Customs—
- (1) How many drug related prosecutions have been initiated under Commonwealth law in Western Australia in each financial year since 1992-93.
 - (2) How many cases in each year referred to in part (1) resulted in convictions.
- 255 **MR EDWARDS:** To ask the Minister for Veterans' Affairs—
- (1) What funds are available to veterans through grants administered by his Department.
 - (2) With respect to each type of grant referred to in part (1), (a) what is its purpose, (b) who is responsible for allocating funds, (c) does he have discretion in the allocation of funds, (d) on how many occasions has he exercised his discretion to overturn recommendations concerning the allocation of funds and (e) will he provide details in respect of each occasion; if not, why not.
 - (3) What sum was allocated under each type of grant to (a) Queensland, (b) New South Wales, (c) Victoria, (d) South Australia, (e) Western Australia, (f) the Australian Capital Territory, (g) the Northern Territory and (h) Tasmania in each financial year since 1995-96.

- 262 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services—
- (1) On the most recent data, how many community based childcare centres are there in the electoral division of Barton.
 - (2) What is the name and address of each centre.
 - (3) How many children are enrolled at each centre.
 - (4) What sum of Commonwealth funding did each centre receive in (a) 1995-96, (b) 1996-97 and (c) 1997-98.
 - (5) What sum will each centre receive in 1998-99.
 - (6) On the most recent data, how many families residing within the postcode areas of (a) 2205, (b) 2207, (c) 2216, (d) 2217, (e) 2218, (f) 2219, (g) 2220, (h) 2221, (i) 2222 and (j) 2223 receive some level of financial child care support from the Commonwealth and which payments do families receive.
- 264 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services—
- (1) How many case managers were employed in the Centrelink customer service centres in the electoral division of Barton on (a) 1 July 1998, (b) 1 July 1997 and (c) 1 July 1996.
 - (2) How many clients were managed by each case manager employed in the Centrelink customer service centres in the electoral division of Barton on (a) 1 July 1998, (b) 1 July 1997 and (c) 1 July 1996.
 - (3) Under the new service delivery model announced by the Minister on 9 November 1998, how many (a) case managers will be employed and (b) clients will be managed by each case manager in the Centrelink customer service centres in the electoral division of Barton.
- 265 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services—On most recent data, what sum in child care assistance per child per annum was allocated to (a) family, (b) private long and (c) community long day care in the postcode areas of (i) 2205, (ii) 2207, (iii) 2216, (iv) 2217, (v) 2218, (vi) 2219, (vii) 2220, (viii) 2221, (ix) 2222 and (x) 2223.
- 266 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) What sum did the Commonwealth contribute towards funding New South Wales' public hospitals in 1991-92 and each subsequent financial year.
 - (2) Is he able to say what sum the NSW Government contributed towards funding New South Wales' public hospitals in 1991-92 and each subsequent financial year.
 - (3) Is he able to say what total sum was spent on funding New South Wales public hospitals in 1991-92 and each subsequent financial year.
- 267 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) What Commonwealth funding was provided in each financial year since 2 March 1996 directly to projects or programs operating in the electoral divisions of (a) Barton, (b) Watson, (c) Banks, (d) Hughes and (e) Cook with the purpose of (i) combating or (ii) preventing the negative health effects of opiate addiction.

- (2) With respect to each project or program referred to in part (1), (a) what is its name, (b) who operates it, (c) what are its aims and objectives, (d) what funding has it received and (e) in what year did Commonwealth funding commence.

275 **MR PRICE:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Has his attention been drawn to the recent Sydney water quality crisis, which highlighted the vulnerability of Sydney's water storage and distribution systems.
- (2) Will he ensure that there will be no impact on the drinking water quality for the residents of Sydney as a result of airport activities if the Badgerys Creek proposal is allowed to proceed.

277 **MR PRICE:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) When planning the construction of an airport, what period of historical meteorological data is considered sufficient to reach well informed and reliable conclusions regarding operational factors, noise impacts, and air quality effects.
- (2) What is the accepted practice in the USA and internationally with respect to meteorological data and the construction of airports.
- (3) What period of meteorological data was used in respect of Badgerys Creek.

3 December 1998

294 **MR SMITH:** To ask the Minister for Finance and Administration—

- (1) Did the Commonwealth in 1963 surrender to the State of Western Australia parcels of land comprising:
- (a) portions of Swan Location 2039 and being (firstly) Lots 515 to 533, inclusive, 547, 578 to 582, inclusive, and part of Lot 534 on plan 2574 and (secondly) the portion numbered 577 on the map of Certificate of Title Volume 1056 Folio 756 being the whole of the land comprised in the said Certificate of Title Volume 1056 Folio 756;
- (b) portions of Swan Location 2039 and being (firstly) Lots 509 on plan 2574 and (secondly) Lot 510 on plan 2610 (sheet 2) and being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1058 Folio 823;
- (c) portion of Swan Location 2039 and being part of the land coloured blue and marked "Drain Reserve" on plan 2574 and being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1069 Folio 891;
- (d) portions of Swan Location 2039 and being Lots 513 and 514 and part of the land coloured blue and marked "Drain Reserve" on plan 2574 and being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1060 Folio 8; and
- (e) portion of Swan Location 2039 and being part of the land on plan 2574 and being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1064 Folio 265.

- (2) If so:
 - (a) was it a condition of the surrender that the land be set aside for purposes of public open space and for police purposes, the condition to be varied only by agreement of the Commonwealth; and
 - (b) has the Commonwealth varied the condition with the State of Western Australia; if so, (i) when and (ii) why.

7 December 1998

303 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Employment Services—

- (1) Has his Department met with the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) since 2 March 1996 to discuss employment, education and training issues; if so, (a) on how many occasions, (b) when were the (i) first and (ii) latest meetings held and (c) how regularly are the meetings held.
- (2) Has his Department met with other organisations since 2 March 1996 to discuss employment, education and training issues; if so, (a) which organisations, (b) when were the (i) first and (ii) latest meetings held in each case and (c) how regularly are the meetings held.
- (3) Which organisations did his Department regularly consult before 2 March 1996 on employment, education and training issues, especially as they related to Working Nation.
- (4) How has the consultation process changed from 1993-96 to 1996-98.
- (5) Has his Department allocated funds to assist the ACCI to communicate to employers the range of Job Network services available and how employers can access them; if so, (a) what sum was allocated, (b) when was the allocation approved, (c) what is the nature of the communication process between the ACCI and employers, (d) have departmental officers been seconded to the ACCI to assist the communication process; if so, in each case, (i) what is the substantive position of the officer and (ii) for what period has the officer been seconded and (e) how is the communication process being monitored for effectiveness.
- (6) Has his Department allocated funds to assist other organisations to communicate to constituent bodies the range of Job Network services available and how these services can be accessed; if so, (a) which organisations and (b) how does the arrangement differ in each case from that entered into with the ACCI.

305 **MS HALL:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) What was the cost to the Commonwealth of closing the Medicare office in Belmont, NSW, including obtaining a release from the lease of its premises.
- (2) How long did the lease have to expire.
- (3) How many staff were employed in the office.
- (4) What was the total annual remuneration paid to the staff.
- (5) What proportion of the staff is still employed by Medicare or Medibank Private.
- (6) What was the projected operational cost of the office for the period of the lease.

- (7) What is the projected operational cost for the Medibank Private office at Charlestown, NSW.
- 306 **MS HALL:** To ask the Minister for Aged Care—Are there inequities in the subsidisation of small compared with large, and metropolitan compared with rural, nursing homes and hostels; if so, what steps is the Government taking to eliminate the inequities.
- 307 **MS HALL:** To ask the Minister for Aged Care—
- (1) Is there a mismatch between the local availability of, and demand for, nursing home and hostel beds; if so, what steps is the Government taking to make beds available where needed.
 - (2) Is it a fact that proportionally the aged population of the electoral division of Shortland is among the highest in Australia but that its per capita nursing home/hostel bed rate is half the national average; if so, why.

9 December 1998

- 320 **MR M. J. EVANS:** To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—
- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 2917 (*Hansard*, 29 June 1998, page 5627), when a Genetic Manipulation Advisory Committee (GMAC) member offered a view on the risks posed by virus-resistant transgenic plants at the 10 June and 24 July 1997 meetings of the SCARM GAP Working Group, as described in part (14) of the answer, (a) what views of the risks were recorded in the minutes of those meetings, (b) are any of those views similar to the conclusions of the GMAC Scientific Subcommittee made at their 1 August 1997 meeting reported in part (3) of the answer to question No. 2918 (*Hansard*, 22 June 1998, page 5073) and (c) was a representative of the Grains Research and Development Corporation present.
 - (2) What was the (a) name and (b) affiliation of each person who (i) attended and (ii) received the agenda for meetings of the SCARM Working Group on the Regulation of Gene Technology during 1997 and when did the Working Group meet during 1997.
 - (3) What are the terms of reference of the SCARM Working Group on the Regulation of Gene Technology.
 - (4) Has the SCARM Working Group on the Regulation of Gene Technology discussed or received reports on (a) insect-resistant transgenic plants, (b) herbicide-resistant transgenic plants or (c) virus-resistant transgenic plants; if so, (i) when did the discussions take place and (ii) when were the reports received.
 - (5) Was there a proposal at a SCARM GAP Working Group meeting to seek the views of Dr Mark Gibbs on the risks posed by plants carrying viral genes; if so, (a) when was the proposal made, (b) what actions were suggested in relation to the proposal, (c) what actions were taken as a result, (d) was any person asked to contact Dr Gibbs in relation to his views and (e) did any person offer to contact Dr Gibbs in relation to his views.
 - (6) Was there a proposal at a SCARM GAP Working Group meeting to seek the views of the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Plant Science on the

risks posed by plants carrying viral genes; if so, (a) when was the proposal made, (b) what actions were suggested in relation to the proposal, (c) what actions were taken as a result, (d) was any person asked to contact the CRC for Plant Science in relation to the views and (e) did any person offer to contact the CRC for Plant Science in relation to the views.

- (7) When was the report on virus-resistant transgenic plants, identified in part (16) of the answer to question No. 2917, received.
 - (8) Did the report referred to in part (7) include comments on (a) possible risks and (b) recombination involving viruses.
 - (9) Did PIC 28, the meeting of the Plant Industries Committee from 8 to 10 October 1997, discuss matters relating to the report on virus-resistant transgenic plants identified in part (16) of the answer to question No. 2917; if so, (a) what matters and (b) which members at PIC 28 commented on those matters at the meeting.
 - (10) Will he release the minutes of (a) the SCARM GAP Working group meetings that took place on (i) 10 June 1997, (ii) 24 July 1997, (iii) 4 September 1997 and (iv) 13 November 1997 and (b) PIC 28 (8-10 October 1997).
 - (11) What is the (a) name and (b) affiliation of each member of the Biotechnology Task Force announced on 28 August 1998.
 - (12) What are the terms of reference of the Biotechnology Task Force.
- 323 **MR SIDEBOTTOM:** To ask the Prime Minister—
- (1) Did the former Tasmanian Liberal Government and the former Member for Braddon provide him information about proposed magnesite mining and processing in Tasmania and related energy options for Bass Strait; if so, what information.
 - (2) Did he indicate to the former Member for Braddon that (a) he would personally take an overview of the proposal and (b) Mr Bob Mansfield of the Government's special projects team would be asked to take a leading role in advancing the proposal.
 - (3) Is the proposed Crest Resources \$1 billion magnesite project in Tasmania on the Government's special projects priority list; if not, why not.
- 324 **MR SIDEBOTTOM:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources—Following the Government's provision of a \$40 million package of incentives for the Tumut pulp mill in southern New South Wales, will the Minister communicate directly with the Tasmanian Government and Crest Resources to offer a similar support package to allow a proposed magnesite mining and processing proposal in Tasmania to proceed.
- 325 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs—
- (1) In each month in (a) 1995-96, (b) 1996-97, (c) 1997-98 and (d) 1998-99 to the date of answering this question, (i) how many unauthorised arrivals occurred at (A) Australian airports in total and (B) each airport, (ii) from which countries did they come immediately before arriving in Australia and (iii) what was their claimed nationality on arrival.

- (2) In each month in (a) 1995-96, (b) 1996-97, (c) 1997-98 and (d) 1998-99 to the date of answering this question, (i) how many unauthorised arrivals occurred at (A) Australian sea ports in total and (B) each sea port, (ii) from which countries did they come immediately before arriving in Australia and (iii) what was their claimed nationality on arrival.
- (3) What action has the Government taken since 1995-96 to monitor and prevent unauthorised airport arrivals and at what cost.
- (4) Is there evidence of organised rackets involving unauthorised entry through (a) airports and (b) sea ports; if so, (i) in either case, in which countries do the rackets originate, (ii) if different rackets are involved at airports and seaports what strategies has the Government adopted to counteract them, (iii) what instructions has he given for Australian authorities to cooperate with international enforcement agencies to counteract the rackets and (iv) what assessment process has been established to measure the success of measures to counteract the rackets.

327 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Employment Services—

- (1) In each region administered by the Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business, (a) what work-for-the-dole programs have been (i) initiated and (ii) completed since the program started, (b) who was the sponsor of each project, (c) what sum did the Commonwealth provide for each project, (d) was funding obtained from other sources; if so, in each case, (i) what sum and (ii) from what source and (e) how many persons (i) were employed on each project, (ii) participated (A) voluntarily and (B) compulsorily on each project and (iii) went on to employment or training after each project.
- (2) Will there be a formal and public assessment of the successes and failures of the work-for-the-dole program to ensure public accountability for Commonwealth funds; if so, when.
- (3) Did he state in the House on 7 December 1998 in answer to a question without notice that the pilot program suggested that 30 per cent of participants were going on to employment or training; if so, was the statement based on information provided by the Department from a formal procedure and assessment and, if so, when will the results be made public.

328 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Employment Services—

- (1) What processes have been implemented to ensure that job agencies who are members of the Job Network are accountable for the appropriate spending of Commonwealth funds on upfront fees for the long-term unemployed.
- (2) Has the Department received (a) general complaints under the code of conduct process associated with the Job Network or (b) complaints specifically about the way the fees are used to help the unemployed.
- (3) Has a member of the Job Network been found to be improperly using the fees in contravention of the code of conduct; if so, what action did the Department take, what was the nature of the decision taken under the code of conduct process and when was this decision taken.

- (4) How many departmental officers are delegated to work (a) full-time or (b) part-time in each departmental region to investigate complaints made under the code of conduct.
- (5) Have officers referred to in part (4) initiated independent investigation of members of the Job Network on the basis of concerns that the Code may be being contravened; if so, (a) on how many occasions, (b) in which departmental regions, (c) what was the nature of the investigations and (d) what were the results.

10 December 1998

332 **MR ANDREN:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Under the proposed new tax system, what are the transitional arrangements, in detail, for businesses holding goods in stock for which they have paid wholesale sales tax.
- (2) How will the proposed GST apply, in detail, to (a) motor vehicle registrations, (b) compulsory and non-compulsory motor vehicle insurance, (c) workers compensation insurance premiums and (d) shares and other like intangible assets.
- (3) How will the proposed GST apply, in detail, to all sectors of the housing industry and what impact will its introduction have on the construction of new buildings.
- (4) What will constitute non-commercial activity for community organisations operating under the proposed new system.
- (5) Under the proposed new system, will (a) State and Commonwealth grants, (b) donations and (c) fees for services received by not-for-profit community organisations be (i) subject to the GST and (ii) included in the \$100 000 threshold above which an organisation must register and remit GST.
- (6) What measures will be implemented to help not-for-profit community organisations deal with the added administration costs likely under the proposed new system.
- (7) Is it a fact that increases in motor vehicle leasing prices attributed to the impact of the proposed GST on used vehicle prices, are compromising the viability of some Government-funded community transport organisations.
- (8) Will the Government ask the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to investigate the GST-related practices of vehicle leasing companies to ensure profiteering is not occurring; if not, why not.
- (9) Is the Government taking steps to compensate affected community transport providers like the Bathurst Community Transport group for transitional increases in leasing costs on motor vehicles; if so, what steps.
- (10) What measures will the Government implement to provide businesses and community organisations in rural and regional Australia with detailed information about how the proposed GST system will operate.

8 February 1999

MR BEVIS: To ask the Ministers listed below (questions Nos. 341-357)—

- (1) How many employees in the Minister's Department have their principal conditions of employment set by (a) an award, (b) an industrial agreement, (c) a certified agreement and (d) an Australian workplace agreement.
- (2) What is the classification of each person in the Minister's Department employed under an Australian workplace agreement.

341 **MR BEVIS:** To ask the Minister for Trade.

342 **MR BEVIS:** To ask the Treasurer.

343 **MR BEVIS:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services.

344 **MR BEVIS:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage.

345 **MR BEVIS:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

346 **MR BEVIS:** To ask the Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business.

347 **MR BEVIS:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services.

348 **MR BEVIS:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

349 **MR BEVIS:** To ask the Minister for Defence.

350 **MR BEVIS:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care.

351 **MR BEVIS:** To ask the Minister for Finance and Administration.

352 **MR BEVIS:** To ask the Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs.

354 **MR BEVIS:** To ask the Attorney-General.

355 **MR BEVIS:** To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

357 **MR BEVIS:** To ask the Minister for Veterans' Affairs.

358 **MR BEVIS:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—Is the Minister able to say whether the position of ABC (Qld) Radio and Television News Editor is, or will soon be, vacant; if so, (a) what circumstances led to the vacancy, (b) how will the vacancy be advertised, (c) what procedures and criteria will apply in determining a replacement and (d) when will the replacement be announced.

359 **MR O'CONNOR:** To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—

- (1) Did the then Minister for Primary Industries and Energy issue a media release on 28 July 1998 stating that (a) he had called for a full report following the death en route of at least 346 of a shipment of 1200 cattle sent to Israel in June 1998 and (b) the exporter had been asked to show cause why his licence should not be suspended.
- (2) Has he or his Department received a report on the incident; if so, (a) when, (b) will the report be made public and (c) did the report recommend the suspension or cancellation of the exporter's licence.
- (3) What action has he taken with respect to the exporter's licence.

- (4) Is it a fact that details of the incident have been known since the ship arrived in Israel on 1 July 1998 but that results of departmental investigations into the matter are yet to be made public; if so, why has there been a delay.
- 360 **MR O'CONNOR:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs—
- (1) What total core funding did his Department allocate to the Geelong Migrant Resources Centre in (a) 1994-95, (b) 1995-96, (c) 1996-97 and (d) 1997-98.
 - (2) What positions and programs at the centre were resourced by his Department in 1995-96.
 - (3) What funding was allocated for positions and programs at the centre in (a) 1996-97 and (b) 1997-98.
- 361 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business—
- (1) What were the primary and secondary sources of information on regional skills shortages and job vacancies in (a) January 1994, (b) January 1997, (c) January 1998 and (d) July 1998.
 - (2) What is the value of the information referred to in part (1) and how has it been used in policy planning across all Commonwealth departments.
 - (3) If there have been changes in the sources of information has its accuracy been affected; if so, (a) how and (b) what measures have been taken in response.
 - (4) Did the abolition of the Commonwealth Employment Service affect the collection of regional data; if so, how.
- 362 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business—
- (1) How many area consultative committees (a) were operating before 2 March 1996 and (b) are operating in February 1999.
 - (2) What is the (a) name, (b) contact address and (c) telephone number of the (i) chairperson and (ii) executive officer of each area consultative committee.
 - (3) What levels of financial and other support (a) does his Department provide and (b) did the Department's predecessor provide before 2 March 1996 to each area consultative committee.
 - (4) What are the terms of each area consultative committee's charter for operation and responsibilities.
 - (5) Have the terms of the charters varied since 2 March 1996; if so, how.
 - (6) Have area consultative committees been given responsibility to collect data on regional skills shortages and job vacancies; if so, (a) what responsibility, (b) how successful has been the data collection, (c) how is the data made available to the public and (d) how is the data incorporated in a national information system.
- 364 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—
- (1) Has his attention been drawn to a report entitled *The cost of superannuation tax concessions* which was prepared by Access Economics and released by the Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia, Investment and

Financial Services Association of Australia, Australian Stock Exchange and Financial Planning Association of Australia in September 1998.

- (2) Has his attention also been drawn to claims in Appendix 1 of the report that
 - (a) the Treasury TES model for costing superannuation tax concessions assumes that the income taxed as superannuation is otherwise taxable in the hands of the employee,
 - (b) the Australian Taxation Office and his Department therefore calculate the concession as the gap between an assumed marginal personal tax rate and the contributions rate of 15 per cent and
 - (c) the official marginal personal tax rate is not revealed but is likely to be around 40 per cent.
- (3) Is it a fact that the official marginal rate referred to in part (2) is not revealed; if so, why.
- (4) What is the official marginal rate referred to in part (2).
- (5) Will he respond to the report; if not, why not; if so, will he present his response to the Parliament or make it available to the public.
- (6) Does existing tax policy discriminate against superannuation rather than incur a cost in terms of forgone revenue; if not, why not.

365 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Does the GST package specify life insurance as a financial supply but not other types of insurance.
- (2) Will death cover be exempt from, but disability cover attract, the GST; if so,
 - (a) will the distinction between the two forms of cover impose additional costs and reduction of benefits in respect of death and disability cover and
 - (b) is this consistent with a simple tax system.

366 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Employment Services—How many voluntary participants in the work-for-the-dole scheme reside in postcode areas (a) 3039, (b) 3041, (c) 3055, (d) 3056, (e) 3057, (f) 3058, (g) 3059, (h) 3040, (i) 3044 and (j) 3046.

367 **DR LAWRENCE:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs—

- (1) What (a) are the existing staffing levels at the Perth Immigration Detention Centre under the supervision of Australasian Correctional Management and (b) were the staffing levels when the centre was operated and administered by Australian Protective Services.
- (2) How many staff are required to be on duty during the day at the centre.
- (3) What is deemed to be a safe ratio of prison officers to detainees.
- (4) What procedures have been established to ensure the safety of detainees and staff members in the case of an emergency.
- (5) How many staff members have resigned since control of the centre was transferred from Australian Protective Services to Australasian Correctional Management.

368 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) What are the obligations of constitutional corporations to disclose the remuneration of their senior chief executive officers.

- (2) Will the Government revoke or modify the obligations referred to in part (1).
- 369 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business—
- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 177 (*Hansard*, 10 February 1999, page 2299), which small business organisation or organisations other than the Council of Small Business Organisations has provided an estimate that 50 000 jobs would be created if small businesses were exempt from federal unfair dismissal laws.
- (2) Are the one in twenty small businesses referred to in the answer to question No. 177 respondent to a federal industrial award and also constitutional corporations.
- 370 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business—Further to the answer to question No. 175 (*Hansard*, 8 February 1999, page 2120), has the Government received advice of the progress of the complaint by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions to the ILO which was lodged on 7 May 1998; if so, what is the progress of the investigation of the complaint.
- 371 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business—Further to the answer to question No. 333 (*Hansard*, 9 February 1999, page 2198), has he provided the Attorney-General with an instrument of delegation in respect of the administration of Division 1 of Part XXII of the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*; if so, what are the terms of the instrument; if not, on what basis does the Attorney-General administer the division.
- 372 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business—Further to the answer to question No. 172 (*Hansard*, 10 February 1999, page 2298), will the Government inquire of all States their current position on the ratification of ILO Convention No. 162—Asbestos, 1986 with a view to taking further action to ratify the convention.
- 373 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—Is the Government or the Health Insurance Commission acting to prevent professional sportsmen and sportswomen from obtaining Medicare benefits; if so, (a) what action is being taken and (b) in what circumstances will professional sportsmen and sportswomen be precluded from obtaining Medicare benefits.
- 374 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—Has his attention been drawn to a report of the New South Wales Parliament's Standing Committee on Social Issues regarding hepatitis C which was tabled in the Legislative Council on 11 November 1998; if so, (a) has he determined whether any aspects of the report can be pursued at the Commonwealth level and (b) will the Commonwealth Government take further action in combating hepatitis C.
- 375 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Attorney-General—
- (1) Is legal aid available to native title respondents; if so, are applicants required to demonstrate financial hardship.

- (2) Is the legal aid referred to in part (1) available to corporations as well as individuals; if so, is a corporation which is respondent to a native title claim entitled to legal aid regardless of its income or profitability.

376 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Attorney-General—

- (1) Will the Government split the family relationships services program so that family and child mediation and child contact services remain within the Attorney-General's portfolio and family and child counselling, marriage and relationships education, family skills training and adolescent mediation and family therapy would move to the Family and Community Services portfolio; if so, why.
- (2) Did the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs recommend that the Australian Institute of Family Studies be relocated to the Attorney-General's Department; if so, will the Government implement the recommendation.

377 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Attorney-General—

- (1) Has the Government decided upon an administrative model for a federal magistracy; if so, what will be the administrative structure.
- (2) Has the funding required to establish a federal magistracy been analysed; if so, with what results.
- (3) Has the Government considered alternatives to the establishment of a federal magistracy such as dual appointments of existing State magistrates or judges.

378 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Does the Government require child care centres which receive childcare assistance payments to meet minimum standards of practice.
- (2) Is the Government working towards national standards in the child care sector; if so, how is this being effected.

379 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Trade—

- (1) What are Australia's obligations under its APEC individual action plan for (a) tariff and (b) non-tariff measures.
- (2) What progress has been made in fulfilling the obligations.
- (3) How does Australia's obligations and progress, measured by unweighted average tariff rates, compare to (a) Hong Kong, (b) New Zealand, (c) Singapore, (d) Taiwan and (e) the United States of America.

380 **MR GRIFFIN:** To ask the Attorney-General—

- (1) Has his attention been drawn to a discussion paper on the role of authorised marriage celebrants published in 1997; if so, what steps have been taken to encourage inactive and uninterested marriage celebrants to resign.
- (2) What measures will be taken to ensure that only the best candidates are selected to be authorised marriage celebrants.
- (3) Will an interview by a skilled personnel practitioner be included in the selection procedure.
- (4) Will the provision of evidence that the applicant has studied and understands the celebrant's role be a criterion.

- (5) What advice for prospective applicants is available to ensure that they are adequately prepared for the selection procedure.
- 381 **MR MOSSFIELD:** To ask the Treasurer—Has his attention been drawn to complaints by public benevolent institutions that (a) while registration into the existing sales tax system is unnecessary and record keeping is minimal, under the proposed new system registration is necessary to reclaim GST and in some cases institutions will need to employ additional staff to keep records, (b) the financing costs involved in waiting for the return of GST paid to suppliers will impose an additional recurrent burden on institutions, (c) limits on the non-monetary components of employees' salary packages will substantially affect the manner in which institutions remunerate their employees and (d) the changes to the taxation system will result in a loss of approximately 10 per cent of their revenues from Government funding.
- 382 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—Did his Department assess applications for funding (a) for major projects from the Federation Fund and (b) from the Federation Cultural and Heritage Projects Program; if so, in each case, (i) how many applications were made in each State and Territory (A) in total and (B) by or on behalf of indigenous organisations, (ii) will he provide a list of all applications made by or on behalf of indigenous organisations in each State and Territory, (iii) how many applications made by or on behalf of indigenous organisations were successful and (iv) will he provide a list of all successful applications made by or on behalf of indigenous organisations.
- 383 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—Did the Minister's Department assess applications for funding (a) for major projects from the Federation Fund and (b) from the Federation Cultural and Heritage Projects Program; if so, in each case, (i) how many applications were made in each State and Territory (A) in total and (B) by or on behalf of indigenous organisations, (ii) will the Minister provide a list of all applications made by or on behalf of indigenous organisations in each State and Territory, (iii) how many applications made by or on behalf of indigenous organisations were successful and (iv) will the Minister provide a list of all successful applications made by or on behalf of indigenous organisations.
- 384 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Minister for Arts and the Centenary of Federation—Did the Minister's Department assess applications for funding (a) for major projects from the Federation Fund and (b) from the Federation Cultural and Heritage Projects Program; if so, in each case, (i) how many applications were made in each State and Territory (A) in total and (B) by or on behalf of indigenous organisations, (ii) will the Minister provide a list of all applications made by or on behalf of indigenous organisations in each State and Territory, (iii) how many applications made by or on behalf of indigenous organisations were successful and (iv) will the Minister provide a list of all successful applications made by or on behalf of indigenous organisations.

9 February 1999

- 385 **MR ANDREN:** To ask the Minister for Veterans' Affairs—Has his attention been drawn to the RSL's welfare priority list for 1998-99 and its proposal that the war widows' pension be reinstated to widows who remarried before May 1984; if so,

(a) what is the estimated cost of the proposal and (b) will the proposal be implemented.

387 **MR L. D. T. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage—

- (1) What specific requirements must State Governments meet to be eligible to receive funding for revegetation schemes under the Natural Heritage Trust.
- (2) Has the Western Australian Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Cheryl Edwardes, (a) sought funding to purchase 870 hectares of land near Mt Lesueur National Park for revegetation purposes and (b) approved the owner's application to clear the land.
- (3) How many land clearing plans submitted by farmers have been approved by the WA Government since February 1998 and in what general locations are they.
- (4) Is the Minister satisfied with the State Government's handling of the matters referred to in the preceding parts; if not, what action will the Minister take.

388 **MR L. D. T. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Veterans' Affairs—

- (1) Are businesses and services which are not ex-service organisations or non-profit community based organisations eligible to receive funding under the Veterans' Affairs Community Care Seeding Grants Program.
- (2) Are projects funded under the program required to be (a) specifically targeted at veterans and war widows and (b) generally available to all veterans and war widows living in a locality.
- (3) Is capital funding available under the program for recreational facilities that are located on private residential land; if so, do special restrictions or conditions apply.

389 **MR L. D. T. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Veterans' Affairs—

- (1) Did his office write to a veteran, Mr A. J. Smith, on 8 April 1998 stating that a report to the Government on the treatment of disability pensions as income for social security pension purposes had been prepared by the Department of Social Security in consultation with his Department and was being considered by the Minister for Social Security.
- (2) Did the then Member for McPherson, Mr Bradfield, tell the House on 3 June 1998 that the report had been completed and had been put in the too-hard basket; if so, did he deny Mr Bradford's claims and tell the House that the interdepartmental review was being done, had not been completed and was not finished; if so, on what basis did he make the denial.
- (3) According to the records held by his department, on what dates were formal meetings of the interdepartmental review held and when was its report first received by his office.
- (4) What were the findings and recommendations of the review.

390 **MR L. D. T. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence—

- (1) For the latest year for which statistics are available, how many recruitment applications for full-time service in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) (a)

were received, (b) were rejected on medical grounds, (c) were accepted and (d) culminated in the applicant enlisting.

- (2) What was the total cost to the ADF of the recruitment process referred to in part (1).
 - (3) During the period referred to in part (1), how many full-time ADF personnel in each service (a) retired, (b) resigned, (c) were made redundant or (d) departed for another reason.
 - (4) What was the total cost of redundancy benefits for those referred to in part (3)(c).
- 391 **MR L. D. T. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence—
- (1) What is the minimum age restriction applicable to (a) full-time service in the Australian Defence Force and (b) part-time service in the Reserves.
 - (2) What is the estimated number of uniformed personnel who are currently under 18 years of age.
 - (3) Are there restrictions on the tasks that can be performed by personnel who are under 18 years of age; if so, (a) what are the details and (b) when were the restrictions introduced.
- 392 **MR L. D. T. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence—
- (1) Under the Defence Reform Program, what is the target number of (a) full-time personnel and (b) reservists for the (i) RAN, (ii) Army and (iii) RAAF.
 - (2) How many positions in each category referred to in part (1) are to be designated as (a) combat-related and (b) non-combat-related.
- 393 **MR L. D. T. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence—
- (1) Have middle-ranking full-time Australian Defence Force officers been compulsorily redeployed into the Reserves in order to free up promotional opportunities for junior officers; if so, how many officers have been moved to the Reserves in 1998-99.
 - (2) Have longstanding officers serving in the Reserves had their services dispensed with as a result of the action referred to in part (1); if so, (a) how many officers and (b) what redundancy benefits did they receive.
- 394 **MR L. D. T. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence—
- (1) What Imperial and Australian medals are available to RAAF personnel who served (a) as signallers on Labuan Island during the Malayan Emergency, (b) with Nos. 3 and 77 Squadrons at Butterworth during Indonesian Confrontation and (c) with 79 Squadron at Ubon Thailand, after June 1965, during the Vietnam War.
 - (2) What were the specific rules of engagement applicable to each period of RAAF service referred in part (1).
 - (3) Are the medal entitlements of RAAF personnel consistent with the rules of engagement applicable to each period of service referred to in part (1); if so, how is consistency established.

- (4) Has the Department of Defence completed its further review of service entitlements for RAAF personnel at Ubon; if so, what (a) findings and recommendations did it make and (b) action has the Government taken as a result.
- 395 **MR L. D. T. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Forestry and Conservation—
- (1) Does the Government's *State of the Forests Report 1998* include a statement on page 5 that Australia is a net exporter by volume of wood-based forest products while stating on page 157 that it is a net importer of these products; if so, which statement is correct.
- (2) For each year since 1989-90, what was Australia's actual balance of trade (a) by value and (b) by volume for (i) timber and wood products, (ii) pulpwood (woodchips) and (iii) paper, paperboard, wastepaper and pulp.
- 396 **MR L. D. T. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Forestry and Conservation—
- (1) On what dates and at what locations has the Wood and Paper Industry Forum met since 1 October 1997.
- (2) What was the actual expenditure on industry development assistance under the Wood and Paper Industry Strategy in (a) 1996-97 and (b) 1997-98 and what is the estimated allocation for (c) 1998-99 and (d) 1999-2000.
- (3) What concrete outcomes have been achieved under the strategy in terms of (a) value-adding and downstream-processing of woodchips, (b) opening export markets, (c) maximising import replacement, (d) building industry skills, (e) creating regional job opportunities and (f) encouraging increased plantation and farm forestry development.
- (4) Does his recent decision to convene meetings of stakeholders to develop a Wood and Paper Industry Action Agenda confirm that both the existing Industry Forum and Industry Strategy are not operating effectively; if not, why is it necessary to have two separate bodies and two separate strategies.
- 397 **MR L. D. T. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Forestry and Conservation—
- (1) How many companies have been granted a woodchip export licence that is currently in force and what is the maximum annual export volume applicable to the licences.
- (2) How many timber companies are able to export woodchips without a licence and what is the estimated annual export volume applicable to these companies.
- (3) Does a minimum sale price apply to woodchip exports; if so, under what circumstances can an exemption be obtained.
- (4) Has he approved applications for the exemption referred to in part (3); if so, what are the details.
- 398 **MS HOARE:** To ask the Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business—
- (1) Did the Federal Court on 6 November 1998, on an appeal of the decision of the full bench of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC) in relation to the Hunter Valley Rio Tinto No. 1 mine dispute, decide effectively in favour of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union.

- (2) Did the Federal Court (a) decide that Justice Giudice and the full bench of the AIRC got the law wrong, (b) identify a number of errors in Justice Giudice's judgment and (c) send the case back to the full bench of the AIRC to reconsider it in the light of clarifications made on the law.
- 399 **MS HOARE:** To ask the Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business—
- (1) Does he support Rio Tinto in its legal dispute with the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) and other unions concerning the Hunter Valley Rio Tinto No. 1 mine.
 - (2) Did the unions, supported by the NSW Government and the Singleton and Muswellbrook local governments, argue before the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC) that the Hunter Valley No. 1 dispute was damaging the economy.
 - (3) Did Justice Boulton of the AIRC agree that the dispute was damaging the economy.
 - (4) Is the concept of damage to the economy an attempt to assess public interest.
 - (5) Did Justice Boulton decide to arbitrate the case because the dispute was damaging the economy.
 - (6) Did he support Rio Tinto's move to appeal Justice Boulton's decision to the full bench of the AIRC.
 - (7) Was the President of the AIRC, Justice Giudice, appointed by the Howard Government.
 - (8) Did Justice Giudice quash Justice Boulton's decision.
 - (9) Was Justice Giudice's decision overturning Justice Boulton's decision given on the basis of public interest.
 - (10) Did the Federal Court, in deciding an appeal by the CFMEU, overturn the full bench decision and uphold Justice Boulton's decision for arbitration.
 - (11) Has he applied for a review of Justice Boulton's original decision on public interest grounds.
 - (12) Is he guided by the public interest in pursuing industrial relations issues.
- 400 **MR JULL:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) How many incidents of passenger disruption or "air rage" occurred on Australian commercial airliners during (a) 1995, (b) 1996, (c) 1997 and (d) 1998.
 - (2) Have investigations revealed the cause of each incident.
 - (3) What penalties apply to passengers involved in incidents.
 - (4) What action has been taken to minimise incidents.
 - (5) What legislative provisions are available for dealing with disruptive passengers on (a) Australian-registered aircraft flying internationally out of Australian airspace and (b) foreign-registered aircraft in Australian airspace.

10 February 1999

- 401 **MS HALL:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources—
- (1) Will the Minister provide a list identifying each coal mine operating in the Hunter region, NSW, and its beneficial owner.
 - (2) What is the nature of the coal produced in the Hunter region.
 - (3) Where is the coal from the Hunter region exported.
 - (4) Has there been collusion in the sale of coal from the Hunter region.
- 402 **MS HALL:** To ask the Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs—
- (1) What assessments will Centrelink use to test the literacy and numeracy of its clients.
 - (2) Will the assessments be given routinely to all young unemployed Australians.
 - (3) Who will administer the assessments and what training will they have.
 - (4) Will additional staff be employed to enable the assessments to be made.
 - (5) Will the assessments be made under proper test conditions.
 - (4) Will all Centrelink offices have a dedicated area for literacy assessments.
- 403 **MS HALL:** To ask the Minister for Sport and Tourism—
- (1) Did ministerial responsibilities prevent her attending the International Olympic Committee World Conference on Doping in Sport; if so, what responsibilities.
 - (2) Is she satisfied with the outcome of the conference.
 - (3) What strategies will she implement to ensure that Australian sport and the Sydney Olympics are drug free.
 - (4) Will responsibility for the outcome referred to in part (3) be delegated to another person.
- 404 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) What sum has the Government spent on the private health rebate advertising program.
 - (2) Will he provide copies of all advertising used to promote the private health rebate.
 - (3) Will private health cover become 30 percent cheaper for all Australians as claimed in the advertising.
 - (4) What guidelines has he provided to private health companies about the advertising of the private health rebate.
 - (5) Has the Government informed recipients of the Private Health Insurance Incentive Scheme that they will not receive the full private health rebate.
 - (6) What sum will a pensioner couple receive in rebate if their private health insurance premium was \$254.85 a quarter before 1 January 1999.
 - (7) What actual percentage rebate is a pensioner couple receiving if they were paying \$254.85 a quarter for private health insurance before 1 January 1999 and, after receiving the private health rebate, are now paying \$192.95.

- 405 **MR BEVIS:** To ask the Minister for Defence—On 20 January 1999, did an F-111 aircraft perform a low-level fly-past around Point Danger on the Queensland-New South Wales border and then past the surf beaches to the north before climbing steeply as it approached high-rise buildings further north; if so, (a) was the manoeuvre performed at very low altitudes a few hundred metres from the shore-line, (b) how many similar fly-pasts were performed, (c) how many aircraft were involved, (d) who authorised each flight, (e) what military purpose did each flight meet, (f) what safety precautions were taken and (g) how close to Coolangatta Airport were the flights.
- 406 **MR ANDREN:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) Was Tasmar, a drug used to treat Parkinson's Disease, withdrawn from sale in Australia on the basis of new evidence; if so, what was the evidence.
 - (2) Has he received correspondence from sufferers of Parkinson's Disease who wish to continue using Tasmar despite the risks.
 - (3) Is it a fact that Tasmar continues to be sold in the USA with additional warnings enclosed in the package.
 - (4) Under what conditions would he allow Tasmar to be re-released for sale in Australia.
- 407 **DR LAWRENCE:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services—How many children (a) with disabilities and (b) suffering from diabetes became ineligible for child disability allowance in (i) 1994, (ii) 1995, (iii) 1996, (iv) 1997 and (v) 1998.

11 February 1999

- 409 **MS MACKLIN:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) What was the nature of the relationship between his Department and the Royal College of Physicians in the development of the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Clinical Practice Guidelines.
 - (2) Was a contract made between the parties to develop the guidelines; if so, (a) will he provide a copy of the contract, (b) did the College comply with all terms of the contract, (c) how was the contract enforced and (d) did the College produce the contract and provide it to the Department.
 - (3) Were terms of reference prepared for the development of the guidelines; if so, (a) who prepared them and (b) will he provide a copy.
 - (4) Did a Royal College of Physicians working group undertake (a) a survey of consumers' views, (b) a consumers' conference, (c) an open consensus conference and (d) multiple consumer and community representation on activities associated with the development of the guidelines.
 - (5) Did the working party (a) use a consensus based model, (b) refuse to accept the submissions of consumers as evidence and (c) fail to invite relevant consumer groups to participate in developing guidelines.
 - (6) Did the working group exclude all consumer submissions because they did not meet the National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines; if so, how were the views of consumers represented in the consultation process other than through the consumer representative on the working group.

- (7) Did the Consumers' Health Forum representative on the working group produce a separate document for circulation with the exposure draft of the guidelines; if so, was the document circulated with the exposure draft.
 - (8) Did the exposure draft include cost-effectiveness studies; if not, why not.
 - (9) Was a motion moved at the International Conference on Chronic Fatigue Syndrome in February 1998 to withdraw the exposure draft on the grounds that it (a) was scientifically and academically flawed, (b) was clinically inadequate, (c) did not support general or patient care and (d) contained no useful guidelines for continuing care of patients; if so, how did his Department respond.
 - (10) Did the working group receive complaints from persons, consumer groups or professional organisations about the development of the guidelines; if so, (a) how did the working group respond and (b) what was the outcome.
- 410 **MS MACKLIN:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) Has the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee considered the listing of Aricept (donepezil), a drug for the treatment of memory loss, as a pharmaceutical benefit item; if so, (a) when and (b) what did the results of clinical trials presented to the committee by the manufacturing company show.
 - (2) Are long-term clinical trials being conducted to ascertain the long-term effectiveness of Aricept in the treatment of memory loss; if so, (a) where are they being conducted and (b) when are they expected to be completed.
- 411 **MR EDWARDS:** To ask the Minister for Defence—
- (1) Does the Australian Defence Force use pyridostigmine bromide, a nerve agent pre-treatment tablet.
 - (2) What is the purpose of the tablet and what side effects does it have.
 - (3) Was the tablet taken by Australian troops during the Gulf War; if so, (a) were they warned of side effects and (b) did they take the tablets (i) voluntarily or (ii) under orders.
- 412 **MR DANBY:** To ask the Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation—
- (1) What sum did the Australia Council grant to organisations for the employment of multicultural arts officers in each year from 1991-92.
 - (2) Will he provide details of the operation of the Australia Council's Community Development Program since its inception including the (a) total sum granted to organisations under the program, (b) names of organisations granted funds, (c) sum granted to each organisation, (d) period covered by each grant, (e) manner of selection of organisations, (f) individual, group or body specifically responsible for the selection of recipients and (g) criteria, guidelines or policies used in making selections.
 - (3) Has the Australia Council decided not to renew triennial funding for 6 multicultural arts officer positions at two organisations under the Community Cultural Development program; if so, what involvement did the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts or his office have in the decision.

413 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) Has his attention been drawn to the statement in the National Competition Council's report entitled *Some impacts on society and the economy* that groups who become exposed to competition after previously being sheltered are often very vocal about explaining, and in some cases exaggerating, the potential costs to them about the loss of privileges.
- (2) Is it a fact that operators of newsagencies are exaggerating the costs of reform to them and that existing arrangements are simply a privilege.

15 February 1999

414 **MR WILKIE:** To ask the Minister for Aged Care—

- (1) Have the daily subsidies paid to aged care providers to cover the cost of providing care to residents been increased since the introduction of the Resident Classification Scale (RCS); if so, (a) what increases have been made and (b) what percentage of the initial subsidy under the RCS do the increases represent.
- (2) Have the increases referred to in part (1) been provided uniformly across States and RCS levels; if not, what increases have been made in respect of each State and RCS level.
- (3) What was the cumulative percentage increase in (a) the CPI, (b) average weekly earnings and (c) nursing salaries in each State public hospital system since the introduction of the RCS.
- (4) What is the difference between nursing wage rates in the acute and aged care sectors in each State.
- (5) Has she received representations from the private nursing home industry in Western Australia about the increases in subsidies paid to providers; if so, (a) what was the basis of the representations and (b) will the Government change existing funding levels for providers in Western Australia or the overall funding mechanism following the representations.
- (6) Does the funding mechanism for aged care providers recognise increased costs incurred by providers in order to comply with (a) Commonwealth and State legislative changes and (b) arbitrated decisions of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission in terminating a bargaining period and making an order under section 170MX of the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*.
- (7) Is it a fact that residential aged care providers are finding it increasingly difficult to attract and retain qualified nursing staff because of a lack of Commonwealth funding and the difference between wage rates in the acute and aged care sectors.
- (8) Is it a fact that aged care providers are not being provided sufficient resources to enable them to achieve accreditation; if not, why not.

415 **MR WILKIE:** To ask the Minister for Employment Services—

- (1) How many staff has the Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business allocated to ensure that Job Network providers comply with regulations and the terms of their association with the network.

- (2) Has the Department received complaints about the operations of Job Network providers; if so, what is the nature of the complaints.
 - (3) How many on-site inspections has the Department made of Job Network providers' premises specifically to (a) ensure that a register of complaints is maintained and (b) inspect financial accounts and records, records of employees and job seekers' records for monitoring and evaluation to protect Commonwealth interests.
 - (4) How many inspections referred to in part (3) were conducted in the electoral division of Swan.
- 416 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Financial Services and Regulation—Does the Government endorse the draft rulings in the National Competition Council's draft report on subsections 52(2) and 52(3) of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* regarding the exceptions from the Act provided for (a) employment conditions and the labour market, (b) standards and (c) intellectual property.
- 417 **MR HOLLIS:** To ask the Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business—
- (1) Is the Government considering the report of the Review of Funding Arrangements for Long Service Leave in the Black Coal Mining Industry; if so, (a) at what stage is its consideration, (b) when did he receive the report, (c) what were the report's recommendations, (d) which organisations were consulted during the review and (e) which organisations made submissions to the review.
 - (2) Will he initiate reviews for long service leave arrangements in other industries; if so, which industries.
- 418 **MS ELLIS:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services—
- (1) How many Centrelink customer service officers were employed in the Centrelink customer service centres in (a) Tuggeranong, ACT, and (b) Woden, ACT, on (i) 1 January 1999, (ii) 1 January 1998 and (iii) 1 January 1997.
 - (2) How many of the Centrelink customer service officers referred to in part (1) were involved in "point-of-contact" service to clients in (a) Tuggeranong, ACT, and (b) Woden, ACT, on (i) 1 January 1999, (ii) 1 January 1998 and (iii) 1 January 1997.
- 419 **MS ELLIS:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—Further to the answer to question No. 242 (*Hansard*, 11 February 1999, page 2459), how many private health insurance members resided in the electoral division of Canberra on (a) 25 November 1998 and (b) 1 February 1999.
- 420 **MS ELLIS:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government—How many (a) local and (b) interstate/international visitors were recorded at the (i) Australian War Memorial, (ii) Parliament House, (iii) Old Parliament House, (iv) National Science and Technology Centre, (v) Australian National Gallery, (vi) National Library of Australia, (vii) High Court of Australia, (viii) Tidbinbilla Space Centre, (ix) National Botanic Gardens, (x) Australian Institute of Sport, (xi) Royal Australian

Mint and (xii) Telstra Tower in Canberra in (A)1995-96, (B) 1996-97 and (C) 1997-98.

421 **MR ALBANESE:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services—

- (1) Will specific purpose payments such as those made under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreements (CSHAs) cease with the introduction of a goods and services tax.
- (2) Is the Government negotiating a CSHA for 1999-2003; if so, has the Minister obtained advice on whether the agreement will have effect after the introduction of a goods and services tax in July 2000.
- (3) If the CSHA is to have effect, are the cost implications of a goods and services tax for community, social and public housing organisations being taken into account during negotiations.
- (4) Will Commonwealth funding under the next CSHA be increased to alleviate the (a) increased cost effects of a goods and services tax and (b) decline in funding since the 1996-97 Budget.
- (5) Since the 1997-98 Budget, has the Government justified cuts to the CSHA by arguing that State housing authorities can absorb the cuts by pursuing more cost effective public housing management practices; if so, what are the cost effective management practices.
- (6) Has the Government forecast that State housing authorities will save up to \$50 million per year until 2000-01; if so, how will the savings be achieved.
- (7) Has the Minister sought confirmation from the Department of the Treasury that social rental housing activities will be deemed commercial under a goods and services tax and therefore input taxed; if so, what was Treasury's response.
- (8) Considering the impact a goods and services tax will have on increased costs for maintaining and running public housing, has the Minister obtained Treasury estimates of the net impact in dollar terms for maintenance spent in housing programs in all States and Territories.
- (9) Does the new tax reform legislation propose to treat trusts in the same manner as companies for tax purposes; if so, has the Minister considered the impact on trusts such as the NSW Home Purchase Assistance Fund, which is predicted to lose \$12.6 million of investment income because of the new tax laws.
- (10) Has the Minister prepared estimates of the reduction in the number of home purchasers who will be unable to receive purchase assistance as a result of the new tax laws; if so, what are the estimates.
- (11) Has the Minister obtained Treasury estimates of the cost per annum for public, social and community housing agencies to comply with the administrative requirements of a goods and services tax in all States and Territories; if so, what are the estimates.
- (12) Has the Minister obtained confirmation that a goods and services tax will apply to headleasing services provided to housing administrators by landlords; if so, (a) will the tax on these services be costed at the weekly

rent value and (b) what are Treasury's predictions of the impact on the costs of headleasing for housing authorities in all States and Territories.

- (13) Will the Minister provide details of modelling or projections of the likely reduction in private sector engagement in the provision of public sector housing following the introduction of a goods and services tax.
- (14) Will the Minister provide estimates of the number of households likely to be forced out of their current accommodation because of increased rents following the introduction of a goods and services tax.
- (15) Will the Minister provide information on the number of persons who live in (a) boarding houses; (b) hostels; and (c) caravan parks in each State and Territory; if so, what is the breakdown by (a) age, (b) ethnicity, (c) gender and (d) household income.
- (16) Is it a fact that long-term residents of boarding houses, caravan parks and hostels will pay tax on their rents under a goods and services tax but house and apartment rents will be exempt; if so, what mechanisms has the Minister considered to address the different treatment.
- (17) Has the Minister prepared estimates of the number of households likely to be forced out of caravan park, boarding house and hostel accommodation because of increased rents following the introduction of a goods and services tax.
- (18) Will the Minister provide total numbers of Rent Assistance recipients, broken down by (a) country of birth, (b) languages other than English spoken at home and (c) principal language spoken at home.
- (19) How many Rent Assistance recipients had payments cut as a result of the reduction in Rent Assistance payable to single persons in shared accommodation.

422 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—

- (1) When did Australia last nominate for membership of the Unesco Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation.
- (2) Does Australia propose to nominate for membership of the committee at the Unesco General Conference in 1999.
- (3) How many persons are employed at the Australian Embassy in Paris.
- (4) Did Australia have an observer at the committee's 10th session (Paris, 25-28 January 1999); if not, why not.
- (5) Will international conferences and seminars concerning the Parthenon Marbles, including their conservation, be held in Washington (February 1999) and Athens (December 1999).
- (6) At which of the conferences and seminars will Australia be represented, and at what level.
- (7) Did the committee at its 10th session invite the United Kingdom and Greece to negotiate on the issue of the Parthenon Marbles.
- (8) Further to the answer to question No. 986 (*Hansard*, 9 May 1994, page 519), is it still the Australian Government's position that the question of the

return to Greece of the Parthenon Marbles is a matter for resolution by the Greek and British Governments.

- (9) In what circumstances has the Australian Government made representations to the Greek or British Governments on the issue of the Parthenon Marbles.

423 **MR SIDEBOTTOM:** To ask the Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer—

- (1) Has the Minister's attention been drawn to an article in the *Australian Financial Review* of 3 November 1998 entitled "Multilateral investment pact on ice" in which it is claimed that the Government hoped that the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) would be revived.
- (2) Is it a fact that Australian OECD negotiators in Paris sought the paring back of the MAI to its core elements; if so, what are the core elements.
- (3) Did the OECD, in a press release dated 3 December 1998, confirm that negotiations on the MAI were no longer taking place but that OECD officials agreed on the importance of multidisciplinary work on the desirability of establishing international rules for investment.
- (4) Has the Minister undertaken to carefully consider the Government's approach to further agreement on international investment rules; if so, what criteria will apply to the consideration.

16 February 1999

424 **MR MOSSFIELD:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Will self-funded retirees aged between 55 and 60 who have not reached pensionable age, such as widows, be ineligible to receive the proposed one-off goods and services tax compensation package; if so, would this discriminate unfairly against this category of retiree.
- (2) Has his Department identified other groups or individuals who would similarly be ineligible; if so, what groups or individuals.
- (3) Were self-funded retirees referred to in preceding parts considered in modelling upon which the Government based its proposed tax package.

425 **MR MOSSFIELD:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 79 (*Hansard*, 15 February 1999, page 2553), will the construction of the Western Sydney orbital road system divert the heavy volume of heavy transport travelling through residential areas of Western Sydney.
- (2) Has he received submissions from, or seen media releases by, the Chair of the Greater Western Sydney Economic Development Board, Mr Jim Bosnjak, seeking funding for the Western Sydney orbital road system; if so, has Mr Bosnjak claimed that decisions on further business development are being delayed in Western Sydney because the road system has not been constructed.
- (3) Would expenditure on the construction of the Western Sydney orbital road system be justified by the resulting creation of further business and employment in Western Sydney.

- 426 **DR THEOPHANOUS:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs—
- (1) Has his attention been drawn to (a) serious problems in the administration of the visitors visa program publicised in recent cases, (b) complaints of many ethnic groups, other community organisations and members of parliament about arbitrary actions by immigration officers towards visitors visas and (c) rejection rates of applications from some countries for visitors visas including persons wishing to visit their families in Australia having reached levels of up to 46 per cent.
 - (2) Will he initiate an inquiry into the administration of the visitors visa program especially as applied to Lebanon, Turkey, the People's Republic of China and Vietnam.
- 427 **DR THEOPHANOUS:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs—
- (1) During the program of consultations on the next planning year of the immigration intake, will he give due weight to submissions from groups in the community who favour increasing the immigration intake.
 - (2) Will he extend the closing date for submissions from organisations wishing to present a detailed case in relation to immigration intake.
- 428 **DR THEOPHANOUS:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs— Has his attention been drawn to criticisms from Australian industry leaders and others in the community who have argued that the level of immigration has reached an unacceptably low level and that economic growth and social considerations require a substantial increase in the level of immigration and a commitment to a longer program over 5 years of increases in immigration; if so, what is his response.
- 429 **MR L. D. T. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence—How many Australian Defence Force personnel were discharged in (a) 1996, (b) 1997 and (c) 1998 after medical officers had determined that their work-related injuries were temporary or probably temporary.
- 430 **MR L. D. T. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence—
- (1) How many breaches of the (a) Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employees) Act and (b) Defence Force Disciplinary Act involving health and safety matters affecting Australian Defence Force personnel were reported in the last year for which statistics are available.
 - (2) What (a) action was taken, (b) fines were imposed and (c) compensation was paid in respect of the breaches referred to in part (1).
- 431 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Prime Minister—
- (1) On 2 October 1998 did he announce grants to welfare agencies under the Gas Assistance-Material Aid Program through the Victorian Emergency Fund; if so, who in the general community was informed about the grants.
 - (2) Were criteria set to satisfy demonstrated hardship for the purposes of the program; if so, what criteria.

- (3) Which welfare organisations in Victoria received grants from the emergency fund.
 - (4) Were there welfare organisations in Victoria which did not receive grants to help meet requests for assistance.
 - (5) Was the emergency fund's closure date extended from 18 December 1998 to 31 January 1999; if so, who (a) decided to extend the closure date and (b) was informed of the decision.
 - (6) Were steps taken to invite interstate applications in accordance with the announcement on 2 October 1998; if so, what steps.
 - (7) What procedures have been implemented to review the effectiveness and operation of the Gas Assistance-Material Aid Program.
- 432 **MR HOLLIS:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—
- (1) How many overseas posts held official Australia Day functions on 26 January 1999.
 - (2) Which overseas posts did not hold official Australia Day functions on 26 January 1999.
 - (3) What reason did each post referred to in part (2) provide for not holding an official Australia Day function.

17 February 1999

- 433 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Prime Minister—
- (1) Did his predecessor's answer to question No. 1372 (*Hansard*, 10 October 1994, page 1614) indicate that Prime Minister Menzies never visited Portugal.
 - (2) Which Prime Ministers of Australia have visited Portugal.
 - (3) On what dates have Australian Prime Ministers visited Indonesia.
- 434 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—
- (1) Which Prime Ministers of Australia have addressed the General Assembly of the UN.
 - (2) Which of them have mentioned Portuguese overseas possessions in their address.
- 435 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—
- (1) Did the General Assembly of the UN on 14 December 1960 adopt and proclaim the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.
 - (2) Did the Menzies Government instruct the Australian delegates to abstain from voting on the declaration.
 - (3) Which other countries abstained.
 - (4) Did the General Assembly in 1961 establish a special committee to examine the application of the declaration and to make suggestions and recommendations on the implementation of the declaration.
 - (5) Did the Gorton Government take Australia out of the committee in 1969.

- 436 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—
- (1) What were the texts of the letters that Prime Minister Menzies wrote in October 1961, February 1963 and October 1963 to Prime Minister Salazar about Portuguese Timor.
 - (2) What were the dates and texts of Dr Salazar's replies.
 - (3) Has his attention been drawn to the submission to the Menzies Cabinet on 21 February 1963 in which his predecessor, Sir Garfield Barwick, revealed that the USA had prompted the letters; if so, (a) how and when were the letters brought to the attention of the USA and (b) what responses were made by the US.
- 437 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—
- (1) Does his Department have records of discussions between Prime Ministers of Australia and Presidents of Indonesia; if so, in respect of which conversations does the Department hold such records
 - (2) Does the Department have copies of letters between Prime Ministers of Australia and Presidents of Indonesia; if so, what are the dates of the letters.
- 438 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—
- (1) On 12 December 1972 in the UN General Assembly did (a) Australia vote in favour of the resolution on the rights of peoples to self determination and the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and (b) France, Portugal, the UK and the USA vote against the resolution.
 - (2) On what dates had there previously been votes on the resolution on these issues in the General Assembly and the Fourth Committee.
 - (3) How did Australia vote on the previous occasions.
- 439 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—What sums did (a) Australia and (b) Portugal pay in 1973-74 and each subsequent financial year to (i) the Red Cross and (ii) other international organisations to support their activities in East Timor.
- 440 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—On what dates, in what places, in what circumstances and with what outcomes have the boundaries of the territorial sea and seabed between Australia and its northern neighbours been discussed by Australian Ministers or officials with foreign authorities who accepted or claimed responsibility for parts of the sea and seabed.
- 441 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—On what occasions and in what circumstances has the UN considered the question of Macau.
- 442 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 153 (*Hansard*, 8 February 1999, page 2119), why has the Government not commissioned an independent study to provide an objective report on the viability of the long term operating targets regarding various flight paths over Sydney.
 - (2) Has the Government commissioned an independent study of the safety repercussions of the long term operating plan; if so, (a) which organisation undertook the study, (b) over what period was the study conducted, (c) what were the findings of the study and (d) has a Government agency or

instrumentality commented on the adequacy of the study; if so, what were the comments.

- 443 **MR ALBANESE:** To ask the Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business—
- (1) Will he provide details of polling being conducted on behalf of the Office of the Employment Advocate including (a) who is conducting the polling, (b) the questions being asked, (c) the methodology used and (d) the financial cost.
 - (2) Have funds been allocated for future polling; if so, what is the budget.
 - (3) Does the polling referred to in the preceding parts constitute push polling.
- 444 **DR LAWRENCE:** To ask the Minister for Employment Services—Further to the answer to question No. 204 (*Hansard*, 8 February 1999, page 2121), how many of the 11 649 young unemployed persons referred to in part (2) of the answer as having commenced Mutual Obligation activities at 27 November 1998 had commenced training in (a) literacy and numeracy, (b) career counselling and (c) job placement and employment training.
- 445 **MS ELLIS:** To ask the Minister for Employment Services—
- (1) How many work-for-the-dole projects are operating in the electoral division of Canberra.
 - (2) Which organisations are involved in running work-for-the-dole projects in the electoral division of Canberra.
 - (3) Where are the projects located.
 - (4) How many (a) voluntary and (b) compulsory participants are there in each project.
 - (5) What is the duration of each project.
 - (6) How many voluntary participants in the work-for-the-dole scheme reside in postcode areas (a) 2600 (b) 2603 (c) 2605 (d) 2606, (e) 2607, (f) 2611, (g) 2900, (h) 2901, (i) 2902, (j) 2903, (k) 2904, (l) 2905 and (m) 2906.

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- 446 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—
- (1) Has his attention been drawn to the message transmitted on 6 January 1999 by the President of the USA to the US Senate seeking its advice and consent to ratification of the Convention and accession to the Protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (The Hague 1954); if so, when.
 - (2) Has the President's message been brought to the attention of the Departments, States and Territories mentioned in question No. 218, which has been on the Notice Paper since 30 November 1998; if so, in each case, when.
- 447 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources—
- (1) Has the Minister's attention been directed to the evidence given to the Longford Royal Commission about the failures of the fire hose couplings used at Esso's Longford plant.

- (2) Since the answer to question No. 2167 (*Hansard*, 24 September 1997, page 8454), what progress has been made by the committees of the Australian Fire Authorities Council in reviewing the couplings in use by member agencies and funding their replacement by the STORZ-type coupling.
- 448 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) What percentage of airline movements at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport involve the mode of operation known as Mode 4.
 - (2) Is it a fact that Mode 4 does not permit departures from the main North-South runway over Botany Bay; if so, will the Government consider varying Mode 4 to facilitate a greater number of aircraft movements over water.
- 449 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 189 (*Hansard*, 11 February 1999, page 2455), was the figure of 10 minutes obtained from research undertaken at the Hurstville Medicare Office.
 - (2) Will he request the Health Insurance Commission to undertake research on the quality of service in specific Medicare offices, particularly the waiting time of customers at the Hurstville Medicare Office.
- 450 **MR ANDREN:** To ask the Minister representing the Special Minister of State—
- (1) How many staff were employed by (a) Ministers, (b) Senators and (c) Members (i) in total and (ii) at each classification level at 1 July in each year since 1988.
 - (2) How many staff were employed at each classification level by Ministers at 15 February 1999.
- 451 **MR ANDREN:** To ask the Minister representing the Special Minister of State—
- (1) Has the Department of Finance and Administration conducted a trial to provide Internet access to certain Members' and Senators' electorate offices; if so, (a) which Members' and Senators' offices were involved and (b) has the trial been evaluated; if so, was it successful.
 - (2) Will the Department extend Internet access to all Members' and Senators' electorate offices.
 - (3) Is it a fact that many Government departments and agencies refer persons seeking information to their World Wide Web sites; if so, is it also a fact that it is difficult for Members, Senators and their staff to conduct inquiries effectively on behalf of constituents if their electorate offices do not have access to the Internet.
- 452 **MR ANDREN:** To ask the Minister representing the Special Minister of State—
- What was the cost to the Commonwealth in each year from 1988-89 to 1997-98 of (a) Members' and Senators' salaries and ministerial supplements, (b) parliamentarians' entitlements including superannuation, travel allowances, provision of vehicles, office rent, telecommunications, office equipment, stationery and newspapers, (c) parliamentarians' staff including salaries, overtime, superannuation, travel and training, (d) domestic and international conveyance of parliamentarians and their staff, (e) the operation of each of the five parliamentary departments and (f) other costs associated with the running of Parliament and Members' and Senators' electorate offices.

- 453 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) Did the Acting Prime Minister make a statement on 7 January 1999 referring to the expected approval of a tax rebate under the Infrastructure Borrowings Tax Offset Scheme for Melbourne's Citylink extension project.
 - (2) Does the project require an environmental assessment; if so, (a) has it been conducted and (b) what form of assessment was or will be used.
- 454 **MR BEVIS:** To ask the Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business—
- (1) Did the Office of the Employment Advocate advertise a senior executive position tasked with increasing the recognition and take-up rates of Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs) by employers; if so, (a) what are the duty statement and selection criteria for the position, (b) is funding for the position provided within the \$3 million awareness campaign budget; if not, how is the position funded and (c) will the position attract performance pay; if so, what criteria will be used to determine performance pay.
 - (2) Have targets been set for the take-up rate of AWAs; if so, what are they.
 - (3) Do the advertisement and other publicity measures indicate a failure of the AWA process, in particular, and the Government's industrial relations initiatives, in general.
- 455 **MR McMULLAN:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government—Has the Minister's attention been drawn to the ACT Government's Rural Residential Development (RRD) Scheme; if so, (a) what is the Minister's position on the ACT Government's encouragement of RRDs, (b) do RRDs conform with the spirit and letter of the National Capital Plan and (c) is it a fact that an open-ended process in evaluating the suitability of rural leases to RRDs may lead to the majority of rural leases being converted to RRD purposes.
- 456 **MS ELLIS:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) What sum did the Commonwealth allocate to youth suicide prevention strategies for 1998-99 (a) in total and (b) to each State and Territory.
 - (2) What method was used to allocate the funds.
 - (3) Was the funding allocated to each State and Territory targeted at specific sectors of the community; if so, which sectors.
 - (4) What percentage of the ACT's allocation for youth suicide prevention was allocated to the work of (a) health services, (b) community organisations and (c) youth services.
 - (5) How is the funding referred to in part (4) tied to youth suicide prevention in the ACT.
 - (6) What is the time frame for the implementation of programs funded in the ACT funded under the youth suicide prevention strategy.
 - (7) Are programs funded under the strategy in the ACT required to be evaluated; if so, what is the time frame for each evaluation.
 - (8) What are the Commonwealth's reporting requirements on funding for the ACT and within what time frame must they be met.

457 **MR SMITH:** To ask the Minister for Sport and Tourism—

- (1) What sum did the Australian Tourism Commission spend on international advertising in (a) 1996-97 and (b) 1997-98.
- (2) What sum was spent on promoting Australia as a holiday destination in (a) England, (b) the UK, (c) Singapore, (d) Indonesia and (e) Japan in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 1997-98.
- (3) To what extent have the advertising campaigns increased the number of overseas tourists to Australia.

8 March 1999

*458 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources—Has the Minister or his Department held discussions with the visiting delegation of the Hungarian President, such that Hungary will meet its nuclear energy needs from Australia in place of the former Soviet Union; if so, what are the details.

*459 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—Has Australia held discussions with other countries about possible peace-keeping operations in East Timor; if so, what are the details.

*460 **MS MACKLIN:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) How many general practitioners and specialists, by specialty, practise in each electoral division.
- (2) How many and what percentage of general practitioners and specialists, by specialty, practising in each electoral division bulk-billed in each month from January 1998 to January 1999.

*461 **MS MACKLIN:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—How many services were (a) provided in total and (b) bulk-billed by (i) general practitioners and (ii) specialists, by specialty, in each electoral division in each month from January 1998 to January 1999.

*462 **MS MACKLIN:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) What is the breakdown for each drug affected by Therapeutic Goods premiums of exemptions (a) applied for and (b) authorised since 1 February 1998.
- (2) What price are consumers paying for each medication delisted from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme between 11 March 1996 and 21 October 1998.
- (3) What is the average increase in the price paid by consumers for each medication delisted from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme between 11 March 1996 and 21 October 1998.

*463 **DR LAWRENCE:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services—What proportion of Centrelink debt is (a) collected from clients who have committed fraud or made an error and (b) attributable to Centrelink administrative and procedural error.

*464 **MR TANNER:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—Has the Commonwealth provided funding to Equal Vocational Employment Network (EVEN) Inc. and its associated organisation, Zenith Employment and Training; if

so, (a) what sum did it provide in (i) 1996-97, (ii) 1997-98 and (iii) 1998-99, (b) on what programs, activities or products did EVEN and Zenith spend the funds and (c) was portion of the funds used to finance a proposed contract with the Eden Fishermen's Recreation Club under which EVEN/Zenith would assume responsibility for managing the club; if so, (i) what sums and (ii) on what items.

*465 **MRS CROSIO:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Did the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) recently send a series of fact sheets on GST transitional arrangements, entitled 'Important tax reform information', to businesses across Australia in an unaddressed A4 envelope; if so, (a) how many envelopes were mailed out, (b) what was the total cost of mailing the information packs, (c) what was the cost of printing the fact sheets and covering letter and (d) which Appropriation Bill covered the funding for printing and posting the information packs.
- (2) What is the total cost, including staff salaries, of maintaining and monitoring the ATO's (a) World Wide Web site at www.ato.gov.au and (b) faxback system.
- (3) How many ATO staff are employed maintaining and monitoring the (a) web site and (b) faxback system.
- (4) How many ATO staff are attached to the Tax Reform Business Education and Communication Project.
- (5) What is the annual salary of each person referred to in part (4).
- (6) What is the running cost of the project.
- (7) Do other Tax Reform Project teams exist within the ATO; if so, (a) how many, (b) what are their specific responsibilities, (c) how many staff are attached to each project team, (d) what is each project's overall running cost and (e) which Appropriation Bill covers the funding for the project teams.
- (8) How many GST fact sheets has the ATO produced in total.
- (9) What are the titles of each GST fact sheet.
- (9) What was the total cost of preparing the fact sheets.
- (10) Which Appropriation Bill covered the funding for printing and posting the fact sheets.

*466 **MR MOSSFIELD:** To ask the Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business—Has action been taken to impose a moratorium on the activities of the National Competition Commission in relation to the retailing sector until parliamentary inquiries on the matter have been completed.

*467 **MR BEVIS:** To ask the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence—Did the Department of Defence enter a contract in July 1998 with Drake International allowing them to employ approximately 140 workers at the South Queensland Logistic group at Enoggera, Qld; if so, (a) what was the term of the contract, (b) what level of funding did the Department provide to enable the workers to be employed, (c) were 32 of the workers made redundant from 18 March 1999; if so, why and (d) has the Department reduced its funding under the contract; if so, (i) why and (ii) what is the level of the reduction.

I. C. HARRIS
Clerk of the House of Representatives

SPEAKER'S PANEL

Mr Adams, Mr K. J. Andrews, Mr Causley, Mrs Crosio, Mrs Gash, Mr Hawker,
Mr Hollis, Mrs D. M. Kelly, Mr Mossfield, Mr Quick.

COMMITTEES

Unless otherwise shown, appointed for life of 39th Parliament

Standing

Pursuant to standing orders

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS: Mr Lieberman (*Chair*),
Mrs Draper, Mr Haase, Ms Hoare, Mr Katter, Mr Lloyd, Mr Melham, Mr Quick,
Mr Snowdon, Mr Wakelin.

Current inquiry:

Review of the Reeves Report on the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act.

COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT AND THE ARTS: Mr Neville (*Chair*), Mr Gibbons,
Mr Hardgrave, Mr Hollis, Mr Jull, Mr Lindsay, Mr McArthur, Mr Mossfield,
Mr Murphy, Mr St Clair.

ECONOMICS, FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION: Mr Hawker (*Chair*),
Mr Albanese, Ms Burke, Ms Gambaro, Mrs Hull, Mr Latham, Mr Pyne,
Mr Somlyay, Dr Southcott, Mr Wilton.

Current inquiries:

Alternative means of providing banking and like services in regional and remote Australia.

Review of the Reserve Bank of Australia's annual report for 1997-98.

EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS: Dr Nelson (*Chair*),
Mr Barresi, Mr Bartlett, Dr Emerson, Ms Gambaro, Mrs Gash, Ms Gillard,
Mr Katter, Mr Sawford, Mr Wilkie.

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE: Mr Causley (*Chair*), Mr Barresi, Mr Bartlett,
Mr Billson, Mrs Gallus, Ms Gerick, Mrs Irwin, Mr Jenkins, Dr Lawrence,
Mrs D. S. Vale.

Current inquiry:

Review of the Department of the Environment's annual report for 1997-98.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS: Mr Wakelin (*Chair*), Mr K. J. Andrews,
Mr Edwards, Ms Ellis, Mrs Elson, Ms Hall, Mrs D. M. Kelly, Dr Nelson,
Mr Quick, Mr Schultz. (Mr Jenkins and Mr Nugent to serve as supplementary members for the purpose of the inquiry into indigenous health.)

Current inquiry:

Indigenous health.

HOUSE: The Speaker, Mr Charles, Mr Hollis, Mr McLeay, Mr Nehl, Mr Sawford, Mr Somlyay.

INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES: Mr Prosser (*Chair*), Mr Baird, Mr Hatton, Mr Lawler, Mr Lloyd, Mr Morris, Mr Nairn, Ms Roxon, Dr Washer, Mr Zahra.

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS: Mr K. J. Andrews (*Chair*), Ms J. I. Bishop, Mr Cadman, Mr Kerr, Ms Livermore, Mr Mossfield, Mr Ronaldson, Ms Roxon, Mr St Clair, Mrs D. S. Vale.

LIBRARY: The Speaker, Mr Adams, Mr L. D. T. Ferguson, Ms Hoare, Mr Lawler, Mr I. E. Macfarlane, Dr Washer.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS: Mr Somlyay (*Chair*), Mr K. J. Andrews, Mrs Crosio, Mr Jenkins, Mr Neville, Mr Nugent, Mr O'Keefe.

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL SERVICES: Ms Bailey (*Chair*), Mr Adams, Mr Andren, Mr Horne, Mr Katter, Mrs D. M. Kelly, Mr I. E. Macfarlane, Mr McLeay, Mr Nairn, Mr Secker, Mr Sidebottom, Mr C. P. Thompson.

Current inquiry:

Infrastructure and the development of Australia's regional areas.

PRIVILEGES: Mr Somlyay (*Chair*), Deputy Leader of the Opposition or his nominee, Mr K. J. Andrews, Mr Danby, Mr Jull, Mr McLeay, Mrs May, Mr Neville, Mr Sawford, Mr Sercombe, Dr Southcott (nominee of the Leader of the House).

PROCEDURE: Mr Pyne (*Chair*), Mr Cameron, Mr M. J. Ferguson, Mr Forrest, Mrs Gash, Ms Gerick, Mr Price.

PUBLICATIONS: Mr Lieberman (*Chair*), Mr Hardgrave, Mrs Hull, Mr Lloyd, Mrs J. S. McFarlane, Mr Rudd, Mr Sidebottom.

SELECTION: Mr Nehl (*Chair*), Mrs Elson, Mr Forrest, Mrs Gash, Mr Hollis, Mr McArthur, Mr McLeay, Mr Neville, Mr Ronaldson, Mr Sawford, Mr Sercombe.

Joint Statutory

AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION: Mr Jull, Mr McArthur, Mr McLeay, Mr Nehl, Senator Sandy Macdonald, Senator MacGibbon, Senator Ray.

BROADCASTING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS: The Speaker, The President, Mr Adams, Mr Forrest, Mrs Gash, Mr Lindsay, Mr Morris, Senator Knowles, Senator West.

CORPORATIONS AND SECURITIES: Ms J. I. Bishop, Mr Cameron, Mr Rudd, Mr Sercombe, Dr Southcott, Senator Chapman, Senator Conroy, Senator Cooney, Senator Gibson, Senator Murray.

NATIONAL CRIME AUTHORITY: Mr Nugent (*Chair*), Mr Edwards, Mr Hardgrave, Mr Kerr, Mr Somlyay, Senator George Campbell, Senator Denman, Senator Ferris, Senator McGauran, Senator Stott Despoja.

NATIVE TITLE AND THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER LAND

FUND: Senator Ferris (*Chair*), Mr Causley, Mr Haase, Mr Melham, Mr Secker, Mr Snowdon, Senator Abetz, Senator Crossin, Senator Reynolds, Senator Woodley.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT: Mr Charles (*Chair*), Mr K. J. Andrews, Mr Brough, Mr Cox, Mr Georgiou, Ms Gillard, Mr Griffin, Ms Plibersek, Mr St Clair, Mr Somlyay, Senator Coonan, Senator Faulkner, Senator Gibson, Senator Hogg, Senator Murray, Senator Watson.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mrs Moylan (*Chair*), Mrs Crosio, Mr Forrest, Mr Hollis, Mr Lindsay, Mr Ripoll, Senator Calvert, Senator Ferguson, Senator Murphy.

Current inquiries:

Berlin—Australian Embassy—Refurbishment of heritage buildings—as a chancery and apartments.

Lucas Heights, NSW—Replacement nuclear research reactor.

Joint Standing

ELECTORAL MATTERS (*Formed 7 December 1998*): Mr Nairn (*Chair*), Mr Danby, Mr L. D. T. Ferguson, Mr Forrest, Mr Somlyay, Senator Bartlett, Senator Faulkner, Senator Lightfoot, Senator Murray, Senator Synon.

Current inquiry:

Conduct of the 1998 federal election.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE (*Formed 7 December 1998*): Senator MacGibbon (*Chair*), Mrs Bailey, Mr Baird, Mr Brereton, Mr G. J. Evans, Mr Hawker, Mr Hollis, Mr Jull, Mrs D. M. Kelly, Mr Lieberman, Mr Martin, Mrs Moylan, Mr Nugent, Mr O'Keefe, Mr Price, Mr Prosser, Mr Pyne, Mr Snowdon, Dr Southcott, Dr Theophanous, Mr A. P. Thomson, Senator Bourne, Senator Chapman, Senator Cook, Senator Ferguson, Senator Harradine, Senator Sandy Macdonald, Senator O'Brien, Senator Quirke, Senator Reynolds, Senator Schacht, Senator Synon.

Current inquiries:

Bougainville peace process.

Loss of HMAS *Sydney*.

MIGRATION (*Formed 7 December 1998*): Mrs Gallus (*Chair*), Mr Baird, Mrs Irwin, Mrs May, Mr Ripoll, Dr Theophanous, Senator Bartlett, Senator Eggleston, Senator McKiernan, Senator Tierney.

NATIONAL CAPITAL AND EXTERNAL TERRITORIES (*Formed 7 December 1998*):

Senator McGauran (*Chair*), Mr Cameron, Ms Ellis, Mr Nehl, Mr Neville, Mr Snowdon, Mr Somlyay, Senator Allison, Senator Crossin, Senator Lightfoot, Senator Lundy.

TREATIES (*Formed 7 December 1998*): Mr A. P. Thomson (*Chair*), Mr Adams, Mr Baird, Mr Bartlett, Mrs Crosio, Mrs Elson, Mr L. D. T. Ferguson, Mr Hardgrave, Mrs D. M. Kelly, Senator Bourne, Senator Brownhill, Senator Coonan, Senator Cooney, Senator O'Chee, Senator Reynolds, Senator Schacht.

Joint Select

RETAILING SECTOR (*Formed 10 December 1998*): Mr Baird (*Chair*), Mrs Elson, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Jenkins, Mr Nairn, Senator Boswell, Senator Ferris, Senator Forshaw, Senator Murray, Senator Schacht. (*To report by 10 June 1999.*)

APPOINTMENTS TO STATUTORY BODIES

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES: Mr Somlyay (*appointed 2 December 1998, for a period of 3 years*).

COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA: Dr Theophanous (*elected 23 November 1998, for a period of 3 years from and including 23 November 1998*).

PARLIAMENTARY RETIRING ALLOWANCES TRUST: Mr Charles (*appointed 24 June 1996*) and Mr McLeay (*appointed 23 November 1998*).