

1998-1999-2000-2001

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOTICE PAPER

No. 161

TUESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2001

The House meets this day at 2 p.m.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**Orders of the day**

- 1 **MIGRATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 2000** (*Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 14 March 2000—Mr M. J. Ferguson*).
- 2 **HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 2000** (*Minister for Health and Aged Care*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 31 May 2000—Mr Horne*).
- 3 **AVIATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 2000** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 12 April 2000—Mr Horne*).
- *4 **MEDICARE LEVY AMENDMENT (CPI INDEXATION) BILL (NO. 2) 2000** (*Minister for Financial Services and Regulation*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 7 December 2000—Mr Smith*).
- 5 **TREASURY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (APPLICATION OF CRIMINAL CODE) BILL 2000** (*Minister for Financial Services and Regulation*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 29 June 2000—Mr M. J. Ferguson*).
- *6 **SUPERANNUATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (POST-RETIREMENT COMMUTATIONS) BILL 2000** (*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 7 December 2000—Mr Smith*).
- 7 **VETERANS' AFFAIRS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (APPLICATION OF CRIMINAL CODE) BILL 2000** (*Minister for Veterans' Affairs*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 30 November 2000—Mr M. J. Ferguson*).
- 8 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 2000-2001** (*Minister for Finance and Administration*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 29 November 2000—Mr Horne*).

* 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.

- 9 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 4) 2000-2001** (*Minister for Finance and Administration*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 29 November 2000—Mr Horne*).
- 10 **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS) BILL (NO. 2) 2000-2001** (*Minister for Finance and Administration*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 29 November 2000—Mr Horne*).
- 11 **WORKPLACE RELATIONS AMENDMENT (UNFAIR DISMISSALS) BILL 1998 [NO. 2]** (*Minister for Defence*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 29 November 2000—Mr Bevis*).
- *12 **COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (APPLICATION OF CRIMINAL CODE) BILL 2000** (*Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 7 December 2000—Mr Smith*).
- 13 **PIG INDUSTRY BILL 2000** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 30 November 2000—Mr L. D. T. Ferguson*).
- *14 **NEW BUSINESS TAX SYSTEM (SIMPLIFIED TAX SYSTEM) BILL 2000** (*Minister for Financial Services and Regulation*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 7 December 2000—Mr Smith*).
- 15 **MARITIME LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2000** (*Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 31 August 2000—Mr McClelland*).
- 16 **REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL AMENDMENT BILL 2000** (*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 29 November 2000—Mr Horne*).
- 17 **CUSTOMS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT AND REPEAL (INTERNATIONAL TRADE MODERNISATION) BILL 2000** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 6 December 2000—Mr Horne*).
- 18 **IMPORT PROCESSING CHARGES BILL 2000** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 6 December 2000—Mr Horne*).
- 19 **CUSTOMS DEPOT LICENSING CHARGES AMENDMENT BILL 2000** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 6 December 2000—Mr Horne*).
- 20 **SEX DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 2000** (*Attorney-General*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 17 August 2000—Mr M. J. Ferguson*).
- 21 **PETROLEUM (SUBMERGED LANDS) LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 2000** (*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 6 December 2000—Mr Horne*).
- 22 **PETROLEUM (SUBMERGED LANDS) (REGISTRATION FEES) AMENDMENT BILL 2000** (*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and*

- Resources*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 6 December 2000—Mr Horne*).
- 23 **MIGRATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (INTEGRITY OF REGIONAL MIGRATION SCHEMES) BILL 2000** (*Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 29 November 2000—Mr Horne*).
- 24 **COAL INDUSTRY REPEAL BILL 2000** (*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 28 June 2000—Mr Horne*).
- *25 **SAFETY, REHABILITATION AND COMPENSATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2000** (*Minister for Defence*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 7 December 2000—Mr Smith*).
- 26 **FAMILY LAW LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (SUPERANNUATION) BILL 2000** (*Attorney-General*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 13 April 2000—Mr Smith*).
- 27 **CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 4) 2000** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 6 December 2000—Mr Horne*).
- *28 **OCCUPATION HEALTH AND SAFETY (COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT) AMENDMENT BILL 2000** (*Minister for Defence*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 7 December 2000—Mr Smith*).
- 29 **FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (APPLICATION OF CRIMINAL CODE) BILL 2000** (*Minister for Foreign Affairs*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 6 December 2000—Mr Horne*).
- 30 **COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2000** (*Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 30 November 2000—Mr M. J. Ferguson*).
- 31 **MIGRATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (MIGRATION AGENTS) BILL 2000** (*Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 29 November 2000—Mr Horne*).
- *32 **TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (EXCISE ARRANGEMENTS) BILL 2000** (*Minister for Financial Services and Regulation*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 7 December 2000—Mr Smith*).
- 33 **POSTAL SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2000** (*Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 6 April 2000—Mr Smith*).
- 34 **COMPENSATION FOR NON-ECONOMIC LOSS (SOCIAL SECURITY AND VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT) BILL 1999** (*Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 25 March 1999—Ms Macklin*).
- 35 **HUMAN RIGHTS (MANDATORY SENTENCING OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS) BILL 1999** (*from Senate*): Second reading (*from 15 March 2000*).

- 36 **CHILD SUPPORT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 2000:** Consideration of Senate's amendments (*from 8 November 2000*).
- 37 **FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (DEBT RECOVERY) BILL 2000:** Consideration of Senate's amendments (*from 29 November 2000*).
- 38 **HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 4) 1999:** Consideration of Senate's message No. 473 (*from 1 November 2000*).
- 39 **IMPORT PROCESSING CHARGES AMENDMENT (WAREHOUSES) BILL 1999:** Consideration of Senate's amendment (*from 7 March 2000*).
- 40 **CUSTOMS AMENDMENT (WAREHOUSES) BILL 1999:** Consideration of Senate's amendments (*from 7 March 2000*).
- 41 **NAVIGATION AMENDMENT (EMPLOYMENT OF SEAFARERS) BILL 1998:** Consideration of Senate's amendments (*from 8 March 2000*).
- 42 **PETROL PRICING:** Consideration of Senate's message No. 443 (*from 16 August 2000*).
- 43 **INDIGENOUS CHILDREN:** Consideration of Senate's message No. 340 (*from 4 April 2000*).
- 44 **ABORIGINAL RECONCILIATION:** Consideration of Senate's message No. 309 (*from 7 March 2000*).
- 45 **CENSURE OF MINISTER FOR FORESTRY AND CONSERVATION:** Consideration of Senate's message No. 183 (*from 24 August 1999*).
- 46 **GEELONG ROAD:** Consideration of Senate's message No. 171 (*from 12 August 1999*).
- 47 **CENTRELINK—LEVEL OF SERVICE:** Consideration of Senate's message No. 45 (*from 10 March 1999*).
- 48 **CENTRELINK:** Consideration of Senate's message No. 2 (*from 12 November 1998*).
- 49 **DEFENCE 2000—PAPER AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Resumption of debate (*from 7 December 2000—Mr Brough*) on the motion of Ms Worth—That the House take note of the papers.
- *50 **COUNCIL FOR ABORIGINAL RECONCILIATION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 7 December 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- *51 **ILO CONVENTION 182—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 7 December 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 52 **REGISTERED HEALTH BENEFITS ORGANISATIONS—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 6 December 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 53 **SYDNEY AIRPORTS CORPORATION LTD—STATEMENT OF CORPORATE INTENT 2000-2005—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:**

Resumption of debate (*from 6 December 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.

- 54 **NATIONAL COMPETITION COUNCIL—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 6 December 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 55 **AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL EXCHANGE COUNCIL—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 6 December 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 56 **EMPLOYMENT NATIONAL—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—ERRATUM—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 30 November 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 57 **FAMILY LAW COUNCIL—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 30 November 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 58 **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 30 November 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 59 **BRINGING THEM HOME—PROGRESS ON COMMONWEALTH INITIATIVES—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 30 November 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 60 **MID-YEAR ECONOMIC AND FISCAL OUTLOOK FOR 2000-01—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 28 November 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 61 **COMMISSIONER OF TAXATION—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—ERRATUM—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 28 November 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 62 **EMPLOYMENT ADVOCATE—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 28 November 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 63 **HEALTH SERVICES AUSTRALIA—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 9 November 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 64 **SERVICE CHARTERS IN THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 8 November 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.

- 65 **CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY AUTHORITY—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 2 November 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 66 **DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND SMALL BUSINESS—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 1 November 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 67 **NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 31 October 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 68 **AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 31 October 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 69 **AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 31 October 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 70 **ANINDILYAKWA LAND COUNCIL—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 31 October 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 71 **NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA AND NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA ADVISORY COUNCIL—REPORTS FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 31 October 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 72 **AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 31 October 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 73 **ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMISSION—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 31 October 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 74 **DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 31 October 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 75 **AUSTRALIA COUNCIL—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 31 October 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 76 **NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption

- of debate (*from 12 October 2000—Dr Martin*) on the motion of Mr McGauran—That the House take note of the paper.
- 77 **PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 October 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 78 **HEALTH INSURANCE COMMISSION—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 10 October 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 79 **ABORIGINAL LAND COMMISSIONER—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 5 October 2000—Dr Martin*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 80 **ABORIGINALS BENEFIT TRUST ACCOUNT—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 3 October 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 81 **BARROW CREEK (KAYTETYE) LAND CLAIM NO. 161—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Resumption of debate (*from 3 October 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the papers.
- 82 **AUSTRALIAN RADIATION PROTECTION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY AGENCY—QUARTERLY REPORT FOR 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 3 October 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 83 **TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 3 October 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 84 **NATIONAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL—STRATEGIC PLAN 2000-2003—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 3 October 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 85 **INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD—REPORT FOR 1999-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 6 September 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 86 **AGREEMENT MAKING UNDER THE WORKPLACE RELATIONS ACT—REPORTS 1998 AND 1999—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 6 September 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 87 **CO-REGULATORY SCHEME FOR INTERNET CONTENT REGULATION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 5 September 2000—Mr Beazley*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 88 **PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION—REPORT—IMPACT OF COMPETITION POLICY REFORMS ON RURAL AND REGIONAL AUSTRALIA—MOTION TO**

- TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 15 August 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 89 **ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION—REPORT FOR PERIOD 1 JULY TO 15 DECEMBER 1999—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 15 August 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 90 **JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL—REPORT FOR 1999—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 15 August 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 91 **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE—SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE FLIGHTS—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 29 June 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 92 **RETAILING SECTOR—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE—REPORT—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 8 June 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 93 **FEDERAL OFFICE OF ROAD SAFETY—HEAVY TRUCK INVESTIGATION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 9 May 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 94 **PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION—REPORT ON PROGRESS IN RAIL REFORM—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 13 April 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 95 **INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON EFFECT OF CERTAIN PUBLIC POLICY CHANGES IN AUSTRALIA'S R&D—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 13 April 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 96 **UN CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 7 March 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 97 **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE—REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN 1997-2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 16 February 2000—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 98 **SEATTLE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION MEETING AND LAUSANNE INFORMAL TRADE MINISTERS MEETING—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 8 December 1999—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr M. A. J. Vaile—That the House take note of the paper.
- 99 **AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND WELFARE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from*

25 November 1999—*Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.

- 100 **SEAFARERS SAFETY, REHABILITATION AND COMPENSATION AUTHORITY—REPORT FOR 1998-99—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 23 November 1999—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 101 **ADVISORY PANEL ON THE MARKETING IN AUSTRALIA OF INFANT FORMULA—REPORT FOR 1998-99—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 23 November 1999—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 102 **AUSTRALIAN HEARING SERVICES—REPORT FOR 1998-99—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 23 November 1999—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 103 **HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 25 August 1999—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 104 **TARIFF PROPOSALS** (*Mr Williams*):
 Customs Tariff Proposal No. 7 (1999)—*moved 8 December 1999*—Resumption of debate (*Mr McClelland*).
- 105 **TARIFF PROPOSALS** (*Mr Slipper*):
 Customs Tariff Proposal No. 1 (2000)—*moved 9 March 2000*—Resumption of debate (*Dr Martin*).
 Customs Tariff Proposal No. 2 (2000)—*moved 21 June 2000*—Resumption of debate (*Mr K. J. Thomson*).
 Customs Tariff Proposal No. 3 (2000)—*moved 6 June 2000*—Resumption of debate (*Mr M. J. Ferguson*).
 Customs Tariff Proposal No. 4 (2000)—*moved 29 June 2000*—Resumption of debate (*Mr M. J. Ferguson*).
 Customs Tariff Proposal No. 5 (2000)—*moved 29 June 2000*—Resumption of debate (*Mr M. J. Ferguson*).
 Customs Tariff Proposal No. 6 (2000)—*moved 30 August 2000*—Resumption of debate (*Mr Smith*).
 Excise Tariff Proposal No. 1 (2000)—*moved 6 June 2000*—Resumption of debate (*Mr M. J. Ferguson*).
 Excise Tariff Proposal No. 2 (2000)—*moved 21 June 2000*—Resumption of debate (*Mr K. J. Thomson*).
 Excise Tariff Proposal No. 3 (2000)—*moved 29 June 2000*—Resumption of debate (*Mr M. J. Ferguson*).
- 106 **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.

COMMITTEE AND DELEGATION REPORTS

Orders of the day

- 1 **AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND SOLOMON ISLANDS—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 26 June 2000—Mr Kerr, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Kerr—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on 26 February 2001.*)
- 2 **AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO THE EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM, CANBERRA—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 26 June 2000—Mr Somlyay, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Somlyay—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on 26 February 2001.*)
- 3 **ECONOMICS, FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION—STANDING COMMITTEE—REVIEW OF RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA'S ANNUAL REPORT 1998-99—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 26 June 2000—Mr Hawker, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Hawker—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on 26 February 2001.*)
- 4 **ELECTORAL MATTERS—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON CONDUCT OF 1998 FEDERAL ELECTION—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 26 June 2000—Mr Nairn, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Nairn—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on 26 February 2001.*)
- 5 **COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT AND THE ARTS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON REGIONAL RADIO RACING SERVICES—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 26 June 2000—Mr Neville, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Neville—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on 26 February 2001.*)

- 6 **LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—ADVISORY REPORT ON THE PRIVACY AMENDMENT (PRIVATE SECTOR) BILL 2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 26 June 2000—Mr K. J. Andrews, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr K. J. Andrews—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on 26 February 2001.*)
- 7 **LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—ADVISORY REPORT ON THE CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT (THEFT, FRAUD, BRIBERY AND RELATED OFFENCES) BILL 1999—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 26 June 2000—Mr K. J. Andrews, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr K. J. Andrews—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on 26 February 2001.*)
- 8 **NATIVE TITLE AND THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER LAND FUND—PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—CERD AND THE NATIVE TITLE AMENDMENT ACT 1998—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 28 June 2000—Mr Snowden, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Snowden—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on 26 February 2001.*)
- 9 **TREATIES—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON SIX TREATIES TABLED ON 6 JUNE 2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 28 August 2000—Mr A. P. Thomson, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr A. P. Thomson—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 2 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 10 **ECONOMICS, FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON REVIEW OF THE ANOA REPORT NO. 37 1998-99 ON THE MANAGEMENT OF TAX FILE NUMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 28 August 2000—Mr Hawker, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Hawker—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 2 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 11 **FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—FROM PHANTOM TO FORCE: TOWARDS A MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE ARMY—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 4 September 2000—Mr Hawker, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Hawker—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 3 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 12 **FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON AUSTRALIA'S TRADE AND INVESTMENT RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AMERICA—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 4 September 2000—Mr Prosser, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Prosser—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 3 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)

- 13 **AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT ON THE NATURE, SCOPE AND APPROPRIATENESS OF ASIO'S PUBLIC REPORTING ACTIVITIES—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 4 September 2000—Mr Jull, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Jull—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 3 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 14 **MIGRATION—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—NOT THE HILTON—IMMIGRATION DETENTION CENTRES: INSPECTION REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 4 September 2000—Mrs Gallus, in continuation*) on the motion of Mrs Gallus—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 3 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 15 **CORPORATIONS AND SECURITIES—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—‘SHADOW LEDGERS’ AND THE PROVISION OF BANK STATEMENTS TO CUSTOMERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 3 October 2000—Mr Sercombe, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Sercombe—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 3 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 16 **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—GUIDELINES FOR GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 4 October 2000—Mr Charles, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Charles—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 3 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 17 **EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—SHARED ENDEAVOURS: EMPLOYEE SHARE OWNERSHIP IN AUSTRALIA—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 9 October 2000—Dr Nelson, in continuation*) on the motion of Dr Nelson—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 4 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 18 **MIGRATION—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF MIGRATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 9 October 2000—Mrs Gallus, in continuation*) on the motion of Mrs Gallus—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 4 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 19 **TREATIES—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—35TH REPORT—AGREEMENT FOR CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 9 October 2000—Mr A. P. Thomson, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr A. P. Thomson—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will*

be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 4 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.)

- 20 **FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT LOAN TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 30 October 2000—Mr Jull, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Jull—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 5 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 21 **TREATIES—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—36TH REPORT—TWO TREATIES TABLED ON 15 AUGUST 2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 30 October 2000—Mr A. P. Thomson, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr A. P. Thomson—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 5 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 22 **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—DEFENCE ACQUISITION PROJECTS; DEBT MANAGEMENT; PLASMA FRACTIONATION: REVIEW OF AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS 1999-2000—SECOND QUARTER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 1 November 2000—Mr Charles, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Charles—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 5 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 23 **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—CONTRACT MANAGEMENT IN THE AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SERVICE—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 2 November 2000—Mr Charles, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Charles—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 6 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 24 **ECONOMICS, FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION—STANDING COMMITTEE—REVIEW OF AUSTRALIAN PRUDENTIAL REGULATION AUTHORITY—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 6 November 2000—Mr Hawker, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Hawker—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 6 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 25 **FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND BELIEF—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 27 November 2000—Mr Nugent, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Nugent—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 26 **LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON ENFORCEMENT OF COPYRIGHT IN AUSTRALIA—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 4 December 2000—Mr K. J. Andrews, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr K. J. Andrews—That the

House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)

- 27 **TREATIES—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—36TH REPORT—SIX TREATIES TABLED ON 10 OCTOBER 2000—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 4 December 2000—Mr A. P. Thomson, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr A. P. Thomson—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 28 **PRIVILEGES—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON STATUS OF RECORDS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 6 December 2000—Mr Somlyay, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Somlyay—That the House take note of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Notice given for Tuesday, 6 February 2001

*1 **MR EMERSON:** To move—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges that equality of opportunity is fundamental to a fair society and that a high-quality education for all young people is necessary for achieving equality of opportunity;
 - (2) agrees that many young people in disadvantaged communities are being denied a high-quality education and therefore an equal opportunity in life;
 - (3) calls on the Government to implement needs-based funding policies for government and non-government schools;
 - (4) endorses early intervention, including reading recovery programs, in remedying educational disadvantage;
 - (5) supports government and non-government schools in disadvantaged communities achieving educational excellence; and
 - (6) expresses its alarm that Federal Government spending on education as a proportion of GDP is no higher than in the early 1990s. (*Notice given 7 December 2000.*)
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Notices

1 **MR PRICE:** To move—That this House:

- (1) notes the Report by the Committee of Sydney Inc “Sydney’s Gateways In The 21st Century - Part 1: The Airports”, prepared by Access Economics and Maunsell McIntyre Maunsell, dated June 2000 which states amongst other things:
 - (a) on a neutral set of assumptions, operations could commence at Badgerys Creek Airport (BCA) in 2020. To achieve this relies on a subsidy in the first two years and no interim measures to prolong Kingsford-Smith Airport (KSA) and, in the absence of other interim measures to prolong KSA (like Bankstown or speed rail), 2020 is the optimal start date for BCA;
 - (b) the earlier BCA commences the greater the economic negatives. If a private owner of Sydney airports is required to commence operations at BCA before it is economically viable, potential bidders will deduct an amount reflecting the cost of the subsidy from their bid price. For example, to commence BCA in 2015, the operational subsidy costs \$160m in the first year, gradually reducing to zero as BCA becomes viable in its own right. The total subsidy outlay from 2015 to 2019 is \$570m. To commence in 2010 the cost rapidly escalates to \$270m in the first year and \$1,700m in total from 2010 to 2019 (in 1997 dollars); and
 - (c) a \$1,700m subsidy to commence operations at BCA in 2010 will cause little reduction in KSA noise while accelerating the introduction of noise over Western Sydney. Reducing noise over inner Sydney would require an even larger subsidy; and
- (2) urges the Minister for Transport and Regional Services to have an Independent Commission of Inquiry into Sydney’s Transport Needs and examine all options including Speed Rail, Interim measures to extend KSA, BCA and other alternative sights for Sydney’s Second Airport. (*Notice given 27 June 2000. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on 26 February 2001.*)

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

- (1) acknowledges the importance of the construction of the Western Sydney Orbital Road System to the economic and social development of Western Sydney;
- (2) acknowledges the importance of road transport access that diminishes interference with road users in local communities;
- (3) recognises that in heavily developed regions such as Western Sydney, the speedy access by road transport to local business developments is vital in assisting productivity and business growth;
- (4) notes the policy commitment of successive governments to build the Western Sydney Orbital Road System;
- (5) acknowledges that only minimum funding has ever been set aside for the building of the Western Sydney Orbital Road System and that conditions of

construction have included the building of a second airport at Badgerys Creek; and

- (6) calls on the Federal Government to listen to and act upon the many calls from affected residents, business groups, business development committees, local government spokespersons and other interested parties in Western Sydney and urgently provide sufficient funding to enable the NSW Government to combine in partnership with the Commonwealth to commence immediate construction of the whole Western Sydney Orbital Road System. (*Notice given 14 August 2000. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on the next sitting Monday after 26 February 2001.*)

3 MS O'BYRNE: To move—That this House:

- (1) recognises the valuable role played by the Australian civilian ships in supporting the Interfet Force deployment in East Timor without which, as Commander Peter Cosgrove stated in his letter to the Maritime Union of Australia of 15 October 1999, the deployed Forces' logistics build up would have been severely hampered;
- (2) recognises that the role played by Australian civilian ships in East Timor continues the enormous role the Australian Merchant Navy has played historically in our ever expanding peacetime carriage of trade both domestically and internationally and through its service in two World Wars at cruel cost, with one seafarer in every eight dying and many more disappearing unrecorded in the ships of many nations;
- (3) supports the International Maritime Organisation's recognition of maritime workers and the importance of merchant shipping, including Australian coastal shipping through the celebrations of Maritime Day on September 24; and
- (4) believes that World Maritime Day should be regarded as a day of maritime pride and history and that the Australian Government should promote the flying of the Australian Flag rather than Flags of Convenience. (*Notice given 28 August 2000. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 2 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)

4 MR PRICE: To move—

- (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 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. (*Notice given 9 October 2000. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 4 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)

5 **MR PRICE:** To move—

(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. (*Notice given 9 October 2000. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 4 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)

6 **MR PRICE:** To move—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. (*Notice given 9 October 2000. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 4 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)

7 **MR PRICE:** To move—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. (*Notice given 9 October 2000. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 4 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)

- 8 **MR PRICE:** To move—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. (*Notice given 9 October 2000. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 4 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)

- 9 **MR PRICE:** To move—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. (*Notice given 9 October 2000. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 4 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)

- 10 **MR PRICE:** To move—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. (*Notice given 9 October 2000. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 4 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)

- 11 **MR K. J. ANDREWS:** To move—That this House:

- (1) notes that stroke is the second highest cause of death in Australia;

- (2) notes that there has been a slowing down of the decline in stroke death rates in recent years;
- (3) notes that the number of people dying from stroke and those surviving with a permanent disability is likely to increase in the future;
- (4) notes that the risk factors for stroke include high blood pressure, tobacco smoking, heavy alcohol consumption, high blood cholesterol, being overweight, and insufficient physical activity;
- (5) notes that the length of stay in hospital for stroke is twice as long as that for other cardiovascular conditions;
- (6) notes that while more women are affected by stroke, the proportion of men who suffer a stroke is 30 per cent higher than for women, and that for people aged 25-64, those from the lowest socio-economic group are twice as likely to die from stroke as those in the highest socioeconomic group with indigenous death rates from stroke in the same age group being eight times the rate in the rest of the population; and
- (7) urges the Government to continue to support public awareness about the high risk factors associated with stroke. (*Notice given 6 November 2000. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 6 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)

12 MRS CROSIO: To move—That this House:

- (1) promotes Australian civic and citizenship values during the Centenary of Federation year 2001 by repealing section 17 of the Citizenship Act to ensure Australian citizens over the age of 18 do not lose their Australian citizenship on the acquisition of citizenship of another country;
- (2) recognises that section 17 of the Citizenship Act denies Australian born citizens the benefits and privileges that come from holding two or more citizenships;
- (3) acknowledges that countries such as New Zealand, the UK, Ireland, Canada, France, USA, Italy, South Africa, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Brazil and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia allow their citizens to obtain another citizenship without losing their original citizenship; and
- (4) calls on the Government to repeal section 17 of the Citizenship Act to allow Australian born citizens the same rights as those naturalised Australian citizens who may hold dual citizenship. (*Notice given 27 November 2000. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)

13 MS HALL: To move—That this House:

- (1) condemns the Government for failing to ensure that residents in nursing homes receive an adequate standard of personal medical care;
- (2) notes the concerns of the families of nursing home residents and workers in the aged care industry about the impact of the Government's aged care policy on nursing home standards and care; and
- (3) calls on the Government to review its aged care policy to ensure that the wellbeing of nursing homes is paramount and not secondary to government savings. (*Notice given 29 November 2000. Notice will be removed from the*

Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.)

14 **MS HALL:** To move—That this House:

- (1) condemns the Government for agreeing to allow a French nuclear-powered attack submarine to visit Australia in March 2001;
- (2) urges the Government to prohibit the visit; and
- (3) calls on the Government to make a commitment to keeping Australian ports free of nuclear-powered and armed vessels. (*Notice given 29 November 2000. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)

15 **MR BEVIS:** To present a Bill for an Act to amend the *Workplace Relations Act 1996* and the Corporations Law, in order to assist workers to recover employee entitlements lost in cases of artificial corporate re-structuring. (*Notice given 29 November 2000. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)

16 **MR HAWKER:** To move—That this House:

- (1) recognising the increasing demands being placed upon Australia's armed forces;
- (2) welcoming the widespread community support for our armed forces;
- (3) accepting the need for the Parliament to be as well informed as possible on all aspects of the operation of the forces but recognising that fewer Members and Senators now have direct experience of service in the forces;

agrees that a Parliamentary Armed Forces Scheme be introduced to enable Members and Senators to gain first hand knowledge of service life and to enable service personnel to gain an insight into political life. (*Notice given 29 November 2000. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)

17 **DR THEOPHANOUS:** To move—That this House:

- (1) expresses its concern at the hardship created by the implementation of the Government policy of granting three year temporary visas to refugees arriving without papers, even after they have been accepted as genuine under Australia's refugee determination processes;
- (2) recognises that the provision in the three year visa which prevents the unification of those persons granted refugee status under the new policy with their spouse and dependent children, is inhumane and unacceptable under international human rights provisions, and is likely to prevent these refugees from seeing their spouses and children for more than the three year period; and
- (3) calls upon the Government to abolish this excessively punitive provision for those persons granted refugee status and to allow them to sponsor their spouses and dependent children to be with them for as long as they are given protection under Australia's international obligations. (*Notice given 30 November 2000. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)

- 18 **DR SOUTHCOTT:** To move—That this House:
- (1) notes that amongst the OECD, Australia is ranked:
 - (a) 3rd in information and communications technology expenditure as a percentage of GDP;
 - (b) 3rd in secure servers for e-commerce
 - (c) 3rd in internet multimedia content
 - (d) 6th in personal computer ownership; and
 - (e) 8th in total online population;
 - (2) notes Canberra has more adults accessing the internet than Washington; Darwin and Perth have more than Atlanta; Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart more than Los Angeles; and Brisbane and Adelaide are equal with New York;
 - (3) notes our take up rates of cellular phones are amongst the highest in the world;
 - (4) notes Australia's growth and increase in productivity during the 1990s exceeded that of the US;
 - (5) notes the financial services sector is greater in size than the mining and agriculture sectors combined, as a percentage of GDP; and
 - (6) rejects the view Australia represents an old economy. (*Notice given 5 December 2000. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 19 **MR EMERSON:** To move—That this House:
- (1) expresses its alarm at large-scale tax avoidance by unscrupulous company executives;
 - (2) expresses its disappointment that the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has issued a series of favourable private binding rulings in support of schemes that the ATO itself has likened to the infamous bottom of the harbour schemes;
 - (3) condemns the Treasurer for refusing to legislate against the abuse of executive share schemes and for obfuscating on promised legislation to crack down on tax avoidance through the use of family trusts; and
 - (4) calls on the Government to act against tax avoidance schemes wherever they emerge, using both legislative and judicial means. (*Notice given 6 December 2000. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 20 **MR BEAZLEY:** To present a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to school funding. (*Notice given 6 December 2000. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)

Orders of the day

- 1 **GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING (OBJECTIVITY, FAIRNESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY) BILL 2000** (*Mr Beazley*): Second reading (*from 26 June*

2000). (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on 26 February 2001.*)

- 2 **WORKPLACE RELATIONS AMENDMENT BILL 2000 [NO. 2]** (*Mr Beazley*): Second reading (*from 26 June 2000*). (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on 26 February 2001.*)
- 3 **MARKETISATION OF EDUCATION:** Resumption of debate (*from 14 August 2000*) on the motion of Mr Sawford—That this House acknowledges the dangers of the marketisation of education in Australia and its potential to normalise inequality for families in rural Australia, for families with disabled children, for families with children with behavioural difficulties and for families of children in depressed socio-economic areas. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on the next sitting Monday after 26 February 2001.*)
- 4 **TIBETAN PEOPLE'S HEALTH:** Resumption of debate (*from 14 August 2000—Mr Danby, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Nehl—That this House:
 - (1) acknowledges the great need to help the Tibetan people cope with the devastating impact of Iodine Deficiency Disorders; and
 - (2) applauds the AusAID program launched in Lhasa on 18 May 2000 which will transform the health profile of the Tibetan people. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on the next sitting Monday after 26 February 2001.*)
- 5 **PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS AND ETHICS:** Resumption of debate (*from 14 August 2000*) on the motion of Mr Horne—That a Standing Committee on Legal Affairs and Ethics be appointed to inquire into whether to permit human surrogacy in Australia and, if so:
 - (1) under what terms and conditions surrogacy should be legalised; and
 - (2) the legal, ethical, moral and religious framework by which legal agreements could be drawn up to allow human surrogacy to take place giving maximum legal safeguards to all people involved. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on the next sitting Monday after 26 February 2001.*)
- 6 **PARALYMPIC GAMES:** Resumption of debate (*from 14 August 2000*) on the motion of Mr Cameron—That this House:
 - (1) acknowledges the significance of the Paralympic Games as the second largest sporting event in the world in 2000;
 - (2) applauds the example of our elite Paralympic athletes in keeping alive the best sporting traditions of honour, excellence and competition; and
 - (3) records its appreciation to the people of the ACT and NSW for their generous support of the Paralympics throughout the 2000 Pollie Pedal bike ride from Parliament House, Canberra, to the Sydney Town Hall. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on the next sitting Monday after 26 February 2001.*)
- 7 **AUSTRALIAN TOURIST COMMISSION:** Resumption of debate (*from 28 August 2000*) on the motion of Mr Baird—That this House:

- (1) commends the Australian Tourist Commission (ATC) in its recognition of the benefit of the Sydney Olympic and Paralympic Games for Australian tourism and for the \$12 million four year program it has put in place to maximise the tourist potential of Australia; and
 - (2) notes the ATC's plans to:
 - (a) generate additional publicity for Australia by hosting additional media;
 - (b) work with major Olympic sponsors on joint promotional programs;
 - (c) assist with National Olympic Committees' official tour operators; and
 - (d) work with international broadcasters who have rights to the Games. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 2 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 8 **POST POLIO SYNDROME:** Resumption of debate (*from 28 August 2000*) on the motion of Mr Adams—That this House:
- (1) recognises Post Polio Syndrome, as thousands of Australians are now experiencing the late effects of contracting polio some 30 to 40 years after the initial infection;
 - (2) notes that it is estimated that a minimum of 20 000 to 40 000 people had paralytic polio in Australia between the 1930s and the 1960s and it has only been recently that this syndrome has been diagnosed;
 - (3) gives support to the Post Polio Network set up around Australia;
 - (4) helps the establishment of assessment clinics for those that suffer from this disorder;
 - (5) helps educate medical professionals to recognise this syndrome and encourage further research; and
 - (6) legislates to recognise the need for post polio sufferers to retire early because of chronic ill health due to past polio infection. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 2 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 9 **NEEDLE SUPPLY AND EXCHANGE PROGRAMS:** Resumption of debate (*from 28 August 2000—Mrs May, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Billson—That this House:
- (1) recognises the:
 - (a) positive contribution needle supply and exchange programs have made to curbing the spread of infectious diseases through injecting drug use; and
 - (b) cost to the community of needle stick injury;
 - (2) encourages State and Territory Governments to:
 - (a) extend the principle of reducing harm by needle supply and exchange programs to include reducing the risk to the broader community of needle stick injury from syringes discarded improperly; and
 - (b) embrace retractable syringe technology across the health sector to reduce the risk and cost of needle stick injury to health professionals and health service consumers; and

- (3) calls on the Federal Government to:
 - (a) initiate trials of retractable syringes for Government-funded needle supply and exchange programs to determine the practicality, clinical effectiveness and cost effectiveness of supplying retractable syringes; and
 - (b) embrace the use of retractable syringes in the Commonwealth's own medical and allied health activities, for example Defence. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 2 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 10 **AVIATION NOISE OMBUDSMAN BILL 2000** (*Mr Albanese*): Second reading (*from 4 September 2000*). (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 3 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 11 **WATER**: Resumption of debate (*from 4 September 2000*) on the motion of Mr Lawler—That this House:
 - (1) notes the crucial importance of water to the ongoing growth of the Australian economy and to the environment of rivers and wetlands;
 - (2) acknowledges the many initiatives implemented over the past decade to achieve more efficient use of water;
 - (3) commends the Government for the directions created by the Natural Heritage Trust National Rivercare Program initiatives, particularly in regard to the Murray Darling Basin and the upper reaches of the Snowy River;
 - (4) calls for all future water allocations to be used for environmental purposes to be only taken from savings from the NSW and Victorian distribution system and only after satisfying a test of the national interest; and
 - (5) calls for proper financial compensation to be awarded to those who have their right to water taken away. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 3 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 12 **CHILD ABUSE**: Resumption of debate (*from 4 September 2000*) on the motion of Mrs Irwin—That this House:
 - (1) recognises the protection of children from abuse is fundamental in a civilised society;
 - (2) is alarmed by the apparent rise in child abuse and neglect despite the efforts of the National Child Protection Council; and
 - (3) calls on the Government to urgently focus more resources in implementing a national approach to the prevention, repair, intervention and research into child abuse. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 3 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 13 **BURMA**: Resumption of debate (*from 9 October 2000*) on the motion of Mr Edwards—That this House calls on the Government of Burma to cease infringing the right of Aung San Suu Kyi to conduct her democratic activities with freedom and in safety and further calls on the Burmese Government to involve itself in a substantive political dialogue with her National League for Democracy. (*Order of*

the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 4 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.)

- 14 **SUPERANNUATION GUARANTEE (ADMINISTRATION) AMENDMENT BILL 2000** (Mr K. J. Thomson): Second reading (from 30 October 2000). (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 5 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 15 **JOB NETWORK MONITORING AUTHORITY BILL 2000** (Ms Kernot): Second reading (from 30 October 2000). (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 5 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 16 **PARALLEL IMPORTING:** Resumption of debate (from 30 October 2000) on the motion of Mr Pyne—That this House:
- (1) recognises that easing restrictions on parallel importing will result in cheaper prices for Australian consumers;
 - (2) acknowledges that easing restrictions on parallel importing will allow Australian consumers to enjoy a greater range of products; and
 - (3) confirms that easing restrictions on parallel importing improves product innovation and development. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 5 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 17 **JOHN SIMPSON KIRKPATRICK:** Resumption of debate (from 30 October 2000) on the motion of Ms Hall—That this House:
- (1) remembers the extraordinary deeds of John Simpson Kirkpatrick who, with his donkeys, rescued injured above and beyond the call of duty until he was himself killed; and
 - (2) implores the Government to award a posthumous Victoria Cross of Australia to “Simpson” in accordance with the wishes of his WWI commanding officers and overwhelming public demand. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 5 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 18 **RESTAURANT AND CAFÉ INDUSTRY:** Resumption of debate (from 6 November 2000—Mr Gibbons, in continuation) on the motion of Ms Gambaro—That this House:
- (1) recognises that the restaurant and café industry makes a significant contribution to the Australian economy, having an estimated gross profit of \$3.3 billion and employing over 188 000 Australians;
 - (2) acknowledges the contribution the restaurant and café industry makes to Australia’s tourism income, with visitors spending an average \$328 on food during their stay in Australia; and
 - (3) recognises the importance placed on the apprenticeship scheme by the Government, increasing the positions available in traineeships, and noting its beneficial impact for training in the restaurant 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 26 February 2001.*)

- 19 **INTERNET VOTING:** Resumption of debate (*from 6 November 2000—Mr C. P. Thompson, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Ripoll—That this House:
- (1) recognises the potential of Internet democracy as a way of fostering greater public participation in politics and rebuilding public trust in democratic processes;
 - (2) notes the US experience in conducting elections through Internet voting, plus the development of mass participation in Internet polls;
 - (3) notes the strong interest of the Australian Electoral Commission in the development of Internet voting; and
 - (4) recognises the need to reform representative democracy and create a charter of issues and governmental responsibilities determined by direct democracy. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 6 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 20 **HYDROGEN ECONOMY:** Resumption of debate (*from 6 November 2000*) on the motion of Mr Charles—That this House encourages the Australian research and development community, both public and private, and the motor vehicle manufacturing industry to move as rapidly as possible to embrace the emerging hydrogen economy and to place Australia at the forefront of the development of hydrogen as an energy carrier to replace carbon and commends General Motors for its “HydroGen 1” hydrogen fuel electric car. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 6 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 21 **OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN:** Resumption of debate (*from 6 November 2000—Mrs D. M. Kelly, in continuation*) on the motion of Mrs Crosio—That this House:
- (1) congratulates the countries of Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Namibia, The Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, The Philippines, Portugal, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uruguay and Venezuela for being signatories to the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);
 - (2) recognises the CEDAW as the only woman specific human rights mechanism at the international level;
 - (3) recognises that the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW is a major step forward in realising Governments’ commitments with regard to women’s human rights;
 - (4) recognises that the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW creates procedures for the United Nations to promote the enjoyment of human rights to all women and the world-wide elimination of discrimination against women;

- (5) recognises that signatories to the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW reject all forms of injustice and systemic discrimination suffered by women worldwide;
 - (6) recognises that the Optional Protocol provides a significant opportunity for women who have suffered from discrimination to seek justice through the United Nations;
 - (7) expresses concern at the significantly diminished role Australia is playing in the negotiations of the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW and the low priority given to the Optional Protocol by the Howard Government;
 - (8) calls on the Howard Government to take an active role in the negotiation process and to promote a speedy ratification of the Optional Protocol; and
 - (9) calls on the Howard Government to have Australia become a signatory to the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 6 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 22 **AUDITOR OF PARLIAMENTARY ALLOWANCES AND ENTITLEMENTS BILL 2000** (*Mr Beazley*): Second reading (*from 27 November 2000*). (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 23 **HORTICULTURAL INDUSTRY**: Resumption of debate (*from 27 November 2000—Mrs Gallus, in continuation*) on the motion of Mrs Gallus—That this House:
- (1) recognises the contribution to Australia’s export earnings of the Australian horticultural industry and its potential for future growth;
 - (2) notes that recent shortfalls in horticultural labour have caused delays in harvesting crops and, in some cases, spoilage of the harvest;
 - (3) acknowledges the need for the horticultural industry to have access to an adequate labour force;
 - (4) promotes recognition of the National Harvest Trail to encourage Australians to take on harvest work in different regions throughout the year;
 - (5) facilitates promotion of the Harvest Trail in domestic and international publications;
 - (6) commends the report by the National Harvest Trail Working Group entitled “Harvesting Australia”; and
 - (7) calls on the Government to take up the recommendations of the report. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 24 **CASUAL EMPLOYMENT**: Resumption of debate (*from 27 November 2000*) on the motion of Mr Sawford—That this House acknowledges the grave dangers inherent in the dramatic rise of precarious casual employment in Australia. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 25 **RAIL**: Resumption of debate (*from 27 November 2000—Mr Gibbons, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr St Clair—That this House:

- (1) recognises the importance of an efficient and well networked rail system to the Australian economy;
 - (2) urges private and government capital investment to ensure more freight is carried by rail to reduce the extent of road transport as an issue of public road safety; and
 - (3) applauds the initiative of the Government in the abolition of diesel fuel excise for rail use as a significant element in the reduction of rail freight cost thereby encouraging greater use of rail. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 26 **HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN:** Resumption of debate (*from 4 December 2000*) on the motion of Mr Wilkie—That this House:
- (1) congratulates Iran regarding the completion of acknowledged democratic elections and the work of the new Majlis;
 - (2) nevertheless regrets that Iran's reputation continues to be marred by questions of human rights and denial of religious freedom, most particularly the persecution of Baha'is and the renewal of the death sentences of Mr Hedayat Kashefi Najafabadi and Mr Sirus Zabihi-Moghaddam, and the inception of another against Mr Manuchehr Khulusi;
 - (3) furthermore notes the persistent gaoling of numerous Baha'is for their religious beliefs and widespread discrimination in property, education, employment, civil and political rights;
 - (4) acknowledges grave concern for the fate of 13 members of the Jewish community presently in custody in Iranian prisons and facing charges of espionage; and
 - (5) urges Australia's continued vigilance and activity regarding human rights issues in Iran. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)
- 27 **ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN CONFLICT:** Resumption of debate (*from 4 December 2000*) on the motion of Mr Pyne—That this House:
- (1) expresses its dismay at the ongoing violence and incitement to violence in the Middle East and calls on both sides to immediately stop all violent acts and for the restoration of calm to the region;
 - (2) takes note of the far-reaching and courageous proposals made by Israel's Prime Minister, Ehud Barak, at Camp David and its disappointment that this historic opportunity was not successfully seized by all parties to the peace process;
 - (3) calls on all partners to resume negotiations without the threat of violence and without the premature announcement of unilateral declarations;
 - (4) expresses its grief for the innocent lives lost on both sides and condemns the unacceptable inclusion of children in violent activities on the front line and expresses the hope that violence will be stopped in accordance with the Sharm el-Sheik agreement;
 - (5) hopes that the conflict will be resolved in the framework of agreement and compromise;

- (6) calls on the leadership of the Israeli and Palestinian people to restore trust and confidence in order to pave the way for the resumption of peace negotiations;
- (7) calls on all countries surrounding the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian territories to ensure their sovereign territory not be used to promote aggression into an already turbulent area; and
- (8) believes that peaceful coexistence is the only option for both Israelis and Palestinians now and into the future. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)

28 **ORDINARY SEAMAN TEDDY SHEEAN:** Resumption of debate (*from 4 December 2000*) on the motion of Mr Sidebottom—That this House:

- (1) recognises the extraordinary deeds of Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean and his crew mates upon the sinking of HMAS *Armidale* on 1 December 1942 off the Timor coast;
- (2) implores the Government to award a posthumous Victoria Cross of Australia to Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean to properly recognise his courageous deeds on 1 December 1942; and
- (3) encourages the Government to establish a mechanism to address outstanding issues and anomalies in the military honours system such as recognising the courageous deeds of people such as Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean on 1 December 1942. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 26 February 2001.*)

COMMITTEE AND DELEGATION REPORTS (standing orders 101, 102A and 102C): Presentation and consideration of committee and delegation reports has precedence each Monday.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS (standing orders 101 and 104) has precedence from the conclusion of consideration of committee and delegation reports, 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. Any private Members' business not called on, or consideration of private Members' business or committee and delegation reports 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

COMMITTEE AND DELEGATION REPORTS

Orders of the day

- 1 **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL SERVICES—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON PRIMARY PRODUCER ACCESS TO GENE TECHNOLOGY—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 2 November 2000—Fran Bailey*) on the motion of Fran Bailey—That the House take note of the report.
- 2 **COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT AND THE ARTS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—BEYOND THE MIDNIGHT OIL: AN INQUIRY INTO MANAGING FATIGUE IN TRANSPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 12 October 2000—Mrs Elson*) on the motion of Mr Neville—That the House take note of the report.
- 3 **EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—AGE COUNTS: ISSUES SPECIFIC TO MATURE-AGE WORKERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 6 September 2000—Ms Kernot, in continuation*) on the motion of Dr Nelson—That the House take note of the report.
- 4 **PROCEDURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—SECOND CHAMBER: ENHANCING THE MAIN COMMITTEE—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 16 August 2000—Mr Sercombe*) on the motion of Mr Price—That the House take note of the report.
- 5 **FAMILY AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON INDIGENOUS HEALTH—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 29 June 2000—Mr Neville*) on the motion of Mr Wakelin—That the House take note of the report.



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 in the Notice Paper.

10 February 1999

- 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.

8 March 1999

- 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.

22 November 1999

- 1041 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) Has the Government, or any person on behalf of the Government, conducted research into the health effects of poor dental health.
 - (2) Does poor dental health have direct links to negative outcomes for pregnancy, birth weight, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.
 - (3) Does poor dental health also impact directly on primary health care, pharmaceutical, work force and social political issues.

- (4) Has research been undertaken as to the preventative value of regular access to dental care where regular review of a patient's teeth by the dentist contributes to positive primary health care outcomes.
- (5) Do those positive health outcomes have positive economic outcomes; if so what are those positive economic outcomes.

15 February 2000

1134 **MRS CROSIO:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) Were additions, improvements or renovations made to (a) Kirribilli House, (b) The Lodge or (c) his Parliament House office in 1999; if so, what (a) are the details and (b) was the cost in each case.
- (2) What was the total maintenance cost for each location in 1999.

6 March 2000

1208 **DR LAWRENCE:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women—

- (1) How many grants have been provided to the (a) National Council of Women of Australia, (b) YWCA and (c) Federation of Business and Professional Women.
- (2) How many, and which State or National organisations are affiliated with each organisation.
- (3) What is the cost of membership or affiliation with each organisation.
- (4) Are conditions placed on membership or affiliation; if so, what.

7 March 2000

1222 **MR L. D. T. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Defence—Has the Australian Defence Force transported to East Timor, or met the transport costs of, civilian Australian personnel involved in the distribution of medical supplies to refugee camps and similar Timorese population centres; if so, were any personnel less than 18 years of age; if so, what are the details.

13 March 2000

1256 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 1 (*Hansard*, 17 February 2000, page 13731), what were the actual costs incurred by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) between 1 July 1996 and 13 March 2000 in respect to (a) compliance activity, (b) audit activity, (c) research into and implementation of the GST legislation and (d) research into and implementation of the Business Tax Reform Program.
- (2) Have ATO staff been taken off their usual duties to undertake work in respect to research into and implementation of the GST legislation and Business Tax Reform Program; if so, (a) how many staff, (b) have those positions been left unfilled and (c) who is doing the work of those who have moved into work associated with research into and implementation of the GST and Business Tax Reform Program.

- (3) What is the actual expenditure on staff doing work in respect to research and implementation of the (a) GST and (b) Business Tax Reform Program.

16 March 2000

- 1283 **MR KERR:** To ask the Prime Minister—How many (a) full time, (b) part time and (c) casual staff were employed by the Commonwealth in (i) Tasmania and (ii) the electoral division of Denison on (A) 2 March 1996 and (B) March 2000.

3 April 2000

- 1290 **MR EMERSON:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Was the document posted on the ATO website at taxreform.ato.gov.au/publications/1999 titled *The new tax system: here's what you need to know* written entirely within the ATO and Treasury, or was part of the drafting provided by his office.
- (2) Does the ATO stand by its assurances at page 7 that prices will not go up by the full 10 per cent because old, unfair taxes such as the wholesale sales tax will be removed and many things will be GST-free.
- (3) What is the basis of the ATO's claim at page 3 that all families, not categories of families, will be better off under the GST
- (4) Will non-prescription skin creams, tampons and sanitary pads, feeding pads and breast pumps, vitamins and minerals, pregnancy kits, spectacle frames, contact lens solutions, first aid kits and band-aids, antiseptics and lozenges, school uniforms, school shoes, stockings and socks, stationery, pens, pencils and paintbrushes and school bags and cases be subject to the GST; if so, how can the ATO claim at page 1 that there will be no GST on health and education.
- (5) Does the ATO stand by its assurance at page 13 that the price of a new \$30 000 family car will fall by around \$2400.

10 April 2000

- 1415 **MRS CROSIO:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) Are there wine cellars at Kirribilli House and The Lodge.
- (2) If so, how many wines are stored in each cellar, and for each wine (a) what is the name of the wine, (b) what is the name of the vineyard, (c) what is the wine maker's name, (d) what is the vintage, (e) in what year was it purchased and (f) what was the cost of the wine at the time of purchase.
- (3) How many bottles of wine were purchased in 1999, and for each wine purchased (a) what is the name of the wine, (b) what is the name of the vineyard, (c) what is the wine maker's name, (d) what is the vintage of each new purchase and (f) what was the cost of the wine at the time of purchase.
- (4) Of the wines cellared at Kirribilli House and The Lodge, how many are local produce.
- (5) Was a wine consultant appointed to implement a wine cellaring strategy for Kirribilli House and The Lodge; if so, (a) what sum, if any, of Commonwealth money was used to pay for the wine consultant's services and (b) what were the terms of the consultant's appointment.

13 April 2000

1449 **MS O'BYRNE:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) Does the Minister administer legislation which relates to domestic violence.
- (2) If so, what is the definition applied by the Minister's Department to the term "domestic violence".
- (3) Is the definition sourced from a policy document or statute.
- (4) Is there discretionary flexibility available to be exercised by the Department when applying the definition to individual circumstances; if so, are there internal departmental manuals outlining discretionary options.

9 May 2000

1473 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) Is the Minister able to say what services operate in the Northern Territory to provide assistance or counselling in relation to the use of alcohol or drugs.
- (2) Where does each service operate.
- (3) What are the particular services provided by each of the services.
- (4) Who operates the services.
- (5) What proportion of clients of each of the services identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- (6) How many (a) full-time, (b) part-time and (c) casual staff are employed in each of the services, and of the total staff, how many identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- (7) How many (a) full-time, (b) part-time and (c) casual staff are employed in the services in areas related to the correctional services and justice, and of the total staff, how many identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- (8) What is the total allocation of financial resources provided for the services by the (a) Commonwealth and (b) Northern Territory.
- (9) What is the total allocation of financial resources provided for the services in areas related to the correctional services and justice by the (a) Commonwealth and (b) Northern Territory.
- (10) What is the total per capita allocation of financial resources provided for the services by the (a) Commonwealth and (b) Northern Territory.
- (11) What is the total per capita allocation of financial resources provided for the services in areas related to the correctional services and justice by the (a) Commonwealth and (b) Northern Territory.
- (12) What proportion of total expenditure by the Commonwealth is the total allocation of financial resources provided for the services in areas related to the correctional services and justice by the Commonwealth.
- (13) What proportion of total expenditure by the Northern Territory is the total allocation of financial resources provided for the services in areas related to the correctional services and justice by the Northern Territory.

1476 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) Is the he able to say what services operate in Western Australia to provide assistance or counselling in relation to the use of alcohol or drugs.
- (2) Where does each service operate.
- (3) What are the particular services provided by each of the services.
- (4) Who operates the services.
- (5) What proportion of clients of each of the services identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- (6) How many (a) full-time, (b) part-time and (c) casual staff are employed in each of the services, and of the total staff, how many identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- (7) How many (a) full-time, (b) part-time and (c) casual staff are employed in the services in areas related to the correctional services and justice, and of the total staff, how many identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- (8) What is the total allocation of financial resources provided for the services by (a) the Commonwealth and (b) Western Australia.
- (9) What is the total allocation of financial resources provided for the services in areas related to the correctional services and justice by (a) the Commonwealth and (b) Western Australia.
- (10) What is the total per capita allocation of financial resources provided for the services by (a) the Commonwealth and (b) Western Australia.
- (11) What is the total per capita allocation of financial resources provided for the services in areas related to the correctional services and justice by (a) the Commonwealth and (b) Western Australia.
- (12) What proportion of total expenditure by the Commonwealth is the total allocation of financial resources provided for the services in areas related to the correctional services and justice by the Commonwealth.
- (13) What proportion of total expenditure by Western Australia is the total allocation of financial resources provided for the services in areas related to the correctional services and justice by the Western Australia.

10 May 2000

1513 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Has his attention been drawn to a report in the *Australian Financial Review* on 26 April 2000 headed “Late GST decision software problem”.
- (2) When will the Australian Taxation Office rule on how to convert foreign currency to Australian dollars under a GST.
- (3) When will the format of the Business Activity Statement be finalised.

1517 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer—

- (1) Has the Minister’s attention been drawn to a recent conviction of a Queensland truck driver on three counts of defrauding the Commonwealth, relating to excise evasion through purchasing marked solvent and selling the product to service stations as transport fuel.

- (2) What other prosecutions were undertaken for fuel excise evasion in 1997, 1998 and 1999, and what were the outcomes of those prosecutions.
- 1518 **MS J. S. McFARLANE:** To ask the Treasurer—
- (1) How many claims for compensation for defective administration were made to the Australian Tax Office (ATO) in each year since 1996-97.
 - (2) How many claims for compensation were successful in each year.
 - (3) What was the total compensation bill in each year.
 - (4) How many claims were made by tax agents on behalf of clients in each year.
 - (5) How many (a) successful and (b) unsuccessful applicants for compensation were subsequently audited by the ATO.
- 1519 **MS J. S. McFARLANE:** To ask the Treasurer—
- (1) Have any claims for compensation for defective administration made to the Australian Tax Office over the period of 1996 to 2000 been paid out either improperly or incorrectly to the wrong person; if so, (a) how many were paid and (b) what sum was paid.
 - (2) Is compensation still owed to another party with respect to these claims.
- 1520 **MS J. S. McFARLANE:** To ask the Treasurer—In cases where a tax agent corrects an item of defective administration of the Australian Tax Office (ATO) on behalf of a client, can the tax agent directly claim compensation from the ATO for that professional time used to deal with an item of defective administration; if not, why not.
- 1521 **MS J. S. McFARLANE:** To ask the Treasurer—
- (1) What were the administrative costs to process claims for compensation for defective administration made to the Australian Tax Office (ATO) in each year since 1996-97.
 - (2) How many claims ended being heard in court in year.
 - (3) What were the legal costs for defending any court action in each year.
 - (4) How many hours were spent by the ATO's legal section working on these claims in each year.

29 May 2000

- 1558 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—
- (1) What has been the total outlay by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) on the EDS contract in each financial year since EDS won the information technology delivery contract for the ATO.
 - (2) What sum has been spent by the ATO for non-EDS delivered IT functions in each financial year since the commencement of the contract.
 - (3) What is the price charged by EDS to the ATO for a basic call out.
 - (4) What was the total cost of the ATO's IT functions prior to the contract being outsourced to EDS and did that cost include the cost of call outs.
 - (5) What was the total cost of the ATO's IT functions after the contract was outsourced to EDS, including the internal support and does that cost include the cost of call outs.

- (6) Further to the answer to question No. 799 (*Hansard*, 19 October 1999, page 11914), will he provide copies of the reports EDS is required to prepare each month on service levels, since the commencement of the contract until 1 May 2000.

1559 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) For how many of its staff has the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) provided GST training.
- (2) How many of those staff have subsequently left the ATO, and how many of them left within six weeks of completing the training course.
- (3) How many staff left the ATO in 1998-99.
- (4) How many staff have left the ATO in 1999-2000 to date.
- (5) What will be the impact of these departures on the time taken to process taxation returns.
- (6) Have staff been transferred out of the Large Business and International business line; if so, how many.
- (7) What has been the cost of outsourcing the information technology function to EDS in each financial year since this first occurred.
- (8) What percentage of the ATO budget is being allocated to information technology in financial year 1999-2000.
- (9) What percentage of the ATO budget was allocated to information technology in (a) 1998-99, (b) 1997-98 and (c) 1996-97.
- (10) Has the ATO given incorrect GST registration numbers to businesses registering for the GST; if so, (a) on how many occasions, (b) what was the reason for incorrect registration numbers being issued and (c) will businesses in this situation who have printed letterheads, replied to questionnaires and who will incur significant expense in rectifying these errors be offered compensation by the ATO or the Government for expenses incurred as a result.

5 June 2000

1600 **MS ELLIS:** To ask the Minister for Aged Care—

- (1) How many (a) church managed and (b) privately owned nursing homes and aged persons' hostels are there in each State and Territory.
- (2) How many clients are there in (a) church managed and (b) privately owned nursing homes and aged persons' hostels in each State and Territory.
- (3) How many (a) church managed and (b) privately owned nursing homes and aged persons' hostels were listed as (i) urgent action required and (ii) action required at the commencement of the *Aged Care Act 1997*.
- (4) How many (a) church managed and (b) privately owned nursing homes and aged persons' hostels listed as (i) urgent action required and (ii) action required have been removed from those lists since 1997.
- (5) How many (a) church managed and (b) privately owned nursing homes and aged persons' hostels are listed as (i) urgent action required and (ii) action required as at 5 June 2000.

- (6) What qualifications does the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency set for quality assessors or inspectors.
- (7) Are quality assessors or inspectors of the Agency categorised by professions such as nursing care, hygiene, fire, building safety, staff training.
- (8) How many quality assessors or inspectors of the Agency are employed in each State and Territory.
- (9) Do approved providers have any input into the selection of quality assessors or inspectors employed by the Agency; if not, why.
- (10) How many inspections of (a) church managed and (b) privately owned nursing homes and aged persons hostels have taken place since the commencement of the Aged Care Act in each State and Territory.
- (11) How many (a) church managed and (b) privately owned nursing homes and aged persons hostels (i) failed an inspection and (ii) have been placed under the control of an administrator.
- (12) How many licences have been revoked since the commencement of the Aged Care Act in each State and Territory.
- (13) Since the commencement of the Aged Care Act, how many (a) church managed and (b) privately owned nursing homes and aged persons hostels have been closed and how many clients were affected in each State and Territory.
- (14) What were the main reasons for the closure of (a) church managed and (b) privately owned nursing homes and aged persons hostels in each State and Territory.
- (15) How many (a) church managed and (b) privately owned nursing homes and aged persons hostels have resident committees with consumer representatives.
- (16) Does the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency have the power to check nursing homes and aged persons hostels at any time.
- (17) What is the ratio of required bathrooms and toilets per client in (a) church managed and (b) privately owned nursing homes and aged persons hostels in each State and Territory.
- (18) Does this ratio vary for different levels of facilities.
- (19) What is the required ratio of registered nursing staff to clients in each care plan in each State and Territory.
- (20) What is the required ratio of trained nursing aid to clients in each care plan in each State and Territory.
- (21) What is the required ratio of Level 1, 2, 3 and 4 carers to clients in each care plan.
- (22) Are carers required to take a literacy or language test prior to employment in a nursing homes and aged persons hostels; if not, why.
- (23) What is the minimum number of (a) registered nurses, (b) trained carers and (c) untrained carers required in nursing homes and aged persons hostels at any time.
- (24) What are the award wage and salary levels for all staff employed in nursing homes and aged persons hostels for each State and Territory.

7 June 2000

1620 **DR THEOPHANOUS:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) Have the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs and other Ministers stated that the policy of mandatory detention of refugees is not inconsistent with Australia's international human rights obligations.
- (2) Did the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs receive advice from the Attorney-General's Department supporting this view; if so, will he provide a copy of that advice.
- (3) Does the advice does cover the (a) convention relating to the status of refugees, (b) international covenant on civil and political rights, (c) convention against torture and all forms of cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment and punishment and (d) convention on the rights of the child; if not, how is the policy of mandatory detention consistent with those conventions.

19 June 2000

1635 **MR O'KEEFE:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) What action has he taken to give effect to undertakings given in his answer to the question without notice (*Hansard*, 30 September 1999, page 11091) regarding alcohol based essence mixtures available to minors in supermarkets.
- (2) What is the present situation regarding an Australia New Zealand Food Authority labelling agreement.
- (3) What proposals have been put by the Commonwealth to the States to secure a uniform national agreement to resolve this problem.
- (4) What has been the response by each State.
- (5) What undertakings have been given by manufacturers and retailers on this issue.

1640 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) At how many of 1,000 seminars conducted around Australia as part of the Australian Tax Office's GST communication and education campaign was there a capacity to translate questions or answers into languages other than English.
- (2) How many staff are available to translate or answer questions in languages other than English during the 159 000 calls to call centres made each month in 2000.
- (3) How many of the 9 million booklets sent to every household and business in Australia have contained information in languages other than English.
- (4) How many of 27 different print advertisements that appeared 81 times across 9 rural newspapers, 542 times across 31 metropolitan papers, 4866 times in 394 regional papers, and 1266 times in suburban metropolitan papers, have been in languages other than English.
- (5) How many television advertisements which have run on 15 metropolitan and 22 regional stations and radio advertisements for 29 metropolitan and 193 regional radio stations, have been in languages other than English.

- (6) How many of the 34 million hits on the ATO website could have accessed information in languages other than English.
- (7) How many of the 2.4 million new tax system registration kits posted out to businesses contained information in languages other than English.

20 June 2000

1646 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) What is the (a) membership, (b) role and (c) function of the (i) Management Board and (ii) Corporate Business Forum of the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).
- (2) What changes have there been to the structure of corporate governance at the ATO since 1995.
- (3) What will be the (a) membership, (b) role and (c) powers of the Board of Taxation.

21 June 2000

1657 **MS J. S. McFARLANE:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Do wage and salary earners with HECS debts who have elected to pay through the tax system have a component of this debt taken out each pay period which is paid to the Australian Tax Office (ATO) as extra income tax.
- (2) Does the ATO hold this contribution in the employer's group tax account and during August each year, does it transfer the monies across to the HECS account in a single yearly transaction.
- (3) Does the ATO apply an indexation to the HECS debt at 1 June each year.
- (4) Does the indexation occur before the monies collected through the tax system in a financial year are deducted from the debt; if so, is interest charged on the sum already paid back through the tax system but not deducted from the debt.
- (5) Does the level of inflation determine the indexation rate.
- (6) Has Treasury undertaken modelling to examine the effect of inflationary pressures caused by the implementation of the GST on the cost of a range of student HECS repayments; if not, why not.
- (7) If so, what would (a) be the increase in the HECS indexation rate for each percentage increase in inflation and (b) this translate to in real cost per annum to the person repaying the HECS loan in the income brackets (i) below \$22 346, (ii) \$22 346 to \$23 565, (iii) \$23 566 to \$25 393, (iv) \$25 394 to \$29 456, (v) \$29 457 to \$35 551, (vi) \$35 552 to \$37 420, (vii) \$37 421 to \$40 223 and (viii) \$40 224 and above.

27 June 2000

1702 **DR LAWRENCE:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) Since the Senate Estimates Committee hearing in May 2000, has there been any increase in the total sum, including travel, accommodation and out-of-

pocket expenses, paid to Dr Jack Best for the Rural Stocktake report on medical education facilities Dr Best undertook for his Department.

- (2) Has Dr Best undertaken other work for him or his Department since then.
- (3) When will Dr Best's report be released.
- (4) Were the recommendations made by Dr Best the basis for budget decisions to provide funding for three new university departments of rural health and nine new clinical schools to undertake relevant undergraduate training.
- (5) Has a decision been made about where these new departments of rural health will be located; if so, (a) what was the process used to decide which universities would be funded to establish these departments, (b) which universities have been successful and (c) what funding has been agreed in each case; if not, (a) when will the decision be made public and (b) what process is being used to reach the decision about which universities will be allocated funds for the new departments.
- (6) Have decisions been made about the sum of additional funding to be provided to each of the medical schools for undergraduate training in rural health; if so, (a) what was the process used to arrive at these decisions, (b) what sums have been agreed in each case and (c) when are these funds to be made available; if not, when and how will the decisions be made.
- (7) Has Dr Best made representations to him or to staff in his office or his Department to recommend which medical schools should receive funds to establish the three new rural health departments.
- (8) Has Dr Best made recommendations about the amount of funding for each of the successful universities.
- (9) Has Dr Best made representations to him or to staff in his office or his Department about the amount of funding to be provided to medical schools for undergraduate clinical programs in rural health.

28 June 2000

1710 **MR ANDREN:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Will a special input credit be available for wholesale sales tax paid on demonstration motor vehicles sold by motor dealers after 1 July 2000; if not, why not.
- (2) Is the Government aware of concerns expressed by motor traders, about the cost of the proposed treatment of demonstration vehicles to their businesses; if so, (a) what sum does Treasury estimate this treatment will cost (i) the motor trading industry as a whole and (ii) the average new car dealer and (b) how does the Government justify placing this additional cost on motor traders.
- (3) Is the Government aware of concerns expressed by some businesses at the cashflow implications of the Pay As You Go instalment system; if so, what is the Government's response to these concerns.

29 June 2000

1715 **MR ANDREN:** To ask the Treasurer—In the transition to the New Tax System, will real estate management fees for residential property be GST free until 1 July

2005 if signed before 2 December 1998, while fees for commercial properties will be GST free until 1 July 2005 if signed before 8 July 1999; if so, why.

1722 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Does the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) still have an Information Technology department; if so, (a) what is the cost of that department, (b) how many staff does it employ and (c) what is its function.
- (2) What is the total of the financial penalties levied upon EDS for non-achievement of service credits to date and over the first year of the contract.
- (3) Has the ATO hired a company to ascertain whether or not the ATO has achieved savings by outsourcing its IT department to EDS; if so, (a) what is the name of the company, (b) what is its brief, (c) what is the cost to the ATO of the review and (d) did the company have to win a tender to carry out this work.

14 August 2000

1737 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—Has the Government defined what is an education course in relation to the application of the goods and services tax on education; if so, (a) how is that definition applied to adult and community education courses and (b) when was the definition released to the public.

1750 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Attorney-General—

- (1) How many registrars worked in the (a) Federal and (b) Family Courts as at 30 June 2000.
- (2) How many registrars work in the (a) Federal and (b) Family Courts after 3 July 2000.
- (3) How many Federal Magistrates were appointed and ready to hear matters in the Federal Magistrates' Court on 3 July 2000.
- (4) What are the filing fees for the Magistrates' Court.
- (5) If the filing fees have not been settled, when will they be settled.
- (6) What are the rules and procedures for the Magistrates' Court.
- (7) If the rules and procedures for the Court have not been settled, when will they be settled.
- (8) When and how will practitioners and litigants of the Court know what the filing fees, rules and procedures of the Court are.
- (9) Are all Magistrates' Court registries to be physically separate from Family and Federal Court registries.
- (10) Will each Magistrates' Court have its own (a) library, (b) staff and (c) facilities.
- (11) Has the Government budgeted to appoint further magistrates if required.
- (12) Does the Magistrates' Court budget make specific provision for alternative dispute resolution; if so; what sum is provided.
- (13) Will the Family Court still have an alternative dispute resolution role.
- (14) What sum of the Family Court budget is directed to alternative dispute resolution in (a) 1999-2000 and (b) 2000-2001.

1752 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Attorney-General—

- (1) Are there guidelines about how the \$20 million of Commonwealth money over 4 years for diversionary programs in the Northern Territory is to be spent; if so, (a) what are they and (b) by whom or by which Department were they developed.
- (2) Are there acquittal guidelines for the Commonwealth monies; if so, (a) what are they, (b) who or what Department developed them and (c) when were they developed.
- (3) Has the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet given any direction to his Department about how the first instalment of \$5 million, or any of the Commonwealth grant monies, is to be spent by the NT Government; if so, what were those directions.
- (4) Do the guidelines require that some of the first \$5 million go towards the provision of an Aboriginal interpretation service.
- (5) Will that interpretation service be an extension of the current NT interpretation service or will a new service be created.
- (6) Will a new service be funded; if not, why not.
- (7) What sum is to be directed to an interpretation service and what proportion of that sum will be (a) Commonwealth and (b) NT money.
- (8) If the money is used to expand the current Northern Territory interpretation service and fund other organisations to be able to access that service, will organisations currently funded by Commonwealth money, for example, the Aboriginal Legal Service, be funded by the extra Commonwealth money to access the interpretation service.
- (9) Will the number of Aboriginal languages offered by the interpretation service be expanded; if so, how.
- (10) Will more interpreters be trained; if so, where.
- (11) Will any of the \$5 million of Commonwealth funds be used to increase police numbers in the NT; if so, will those positions specifically target diversionary programs; if so, how.
- (12) Has the format of the diversionary programs that the NT intends to implement been agreed upon; if so, (a) what is that format, (b) who will run the programs, (c) which juvenile offenders will be targeted and (d) where will those programs run.
- (13) Does his Department have any expertise or specialist knowledge in diversionary programs for Aboriginal juvenile offenders; if so, how is that expertise being used in terms of developing the NT program.
- (14) Is his Department consulting with any non-government agencies or bodies in the NT about the scope or the form of diversionary programs.
- (15) Is he able to say whether the NT Government is consulting with non-government agencies about the scope or format of diversionary programs.
- (16) What is the timetable for commencement of all or any of these diversionary programs.

1777 **MR HATTON:** To ask the Attorney-General—

- (1) Is the Minister's Department and agencies within the Minister's portfolio compliant in respect of the Goods and Services Tax.
- (2) What action did the Minister's Department and agencies within the Minister's portfolio take to ensure that they were GST ready by 1 July 2000.
- (3) Is the Minister able to guarantee that no agency within the Minister's portfolio will suffer negative impacts on its budget or services due to the GST; if not, or if the guarantee was subsequently proved incorrect, would the Minister be prepared to resign.

1787 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Where are the locations of access points to Botany Bay in the event of an aircraft emergency in the Bay.
- (2) What are the evacuation points for vessels to unload injured passengers who may be rescued from the water and how far are those access points from the St George Hospital.
- (3) Has the Government considered the need for additional access points.
- (4) Has his attention been drawn to Rockdale City Council's proposed repairs and modifications to the Brighton Jetty which would make the structure wider than normal to enable a vehicle such as an ambulance to drive down the jetty and then turn around at the end and to allow boats to come alongside in various weather conditions.
- (5) Is the jetty ideally located as an emergency access point to the Bay; if so, will his Department investigate the proposal with a view to the Commonwealth providing financial assistance for the project.

15 August 2000

1809 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Has the Government instructed the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) to review existing excise arrangements for petroleum products that may be used as a substitute in fuel.
- (2) Does this review involve a review of the current testing practices.
- (3) Is the Government considering directing the ATO to recommence the spot testing for fuel substitution that was curtailed when the excise function was transferred to the ATO from Customs.
- (4) What petrol stations have been found to be adding methanol to petrol.
- (5) Does the Government agree with the calls by the Australian Automobile Association and the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce for the establishment of national standards for fuel and regular random fuel testing to prevent excise loss and possible damage to automobiles.
- (6) Does the Excise Amendment (Compliance Improvement) Bill 2000 contain proposals to allow the searching of conveyances without warrant to search for tobacco leaf; if so, will the (a) same provisions apply to petroleum products and (b) ATO be directed to apply a similar measure to all excisable products; if not why not.

16 August 2000

1819 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Sydney 2000 Games—

- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 681 (*Hansard*, 1 September 1999, page 9723), have the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Austrade finalised criteria for the distribution of tickets available to the Government for use at the Sydney Olympic Games; if so, what are the criteria.
- (2) Has the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet received a license agreement for the SuperDome box as yet and what is the basis of the agreement.
- (3) In addition to the \$850 000 for the cost of tickets to the Olympics for use by Government, the \$240 000 for use of a 20-seat box at Stadium Australia, and the \$120 000 for an 18-seat box at the Super Dome, what is the estimate and breakdown of other costs to be incurred by the Prime Minister and other Ministers when entertaining guests during the Olympic Games.

17 August 2000

1849 **MR MCCLELLAND:** To ask the Attorney-General—

- (1) Is the Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) representing a Mrs Haywood and a Mrs Nardi in relation to letters addressed to them dated 27 April 2000 from Ms Christine Trevett, a former staff member of Mr Cameron Thompson MP.
- (2) Is it the case that both Mrs Haywood and Mrs Nardi are not employed by Mr Thompson in his capacity as a Member of Parliament.
- (3) Are there any restrictions on the classes of clients which the AGS may represent; if so, what are those restrictions.
- (4) On what basis is the AGS representing Mrs Haywood and Mrs Nardi.
- (5) Who is paying the costs of the AGS in respect of Mrs Haywood and Mrs Nardi.
- (6) What is the sum of those legal costs to August 2000.

1852 **MR ANDREN:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Is it a fact that for motor vehicle leases signed before 2 December 1998 and which span 1 July 2000, the GST does not apply to periodic lease payments but does apply to the residual value of a motor vehicle purchased by a lessee at the end of a lease agreement, however, for motor vehicle leases signed after 2 December 1998 and which span 1 July 2000, the GST applies to both periodic lease payments and the residual value of a vehicle purchased by a lessee at the end of a lease agreement; if so, why does the GST apply differently in each case.
- (2) Do monthly payments and residual values of motor vehicles arising from lease arrangements entered into prior to 1 July 2000 include a wholesale sales tax component; if not, why not; if so, (a) why is GST being applied to such leases on top of wholesale sales tax, (b) what is the Government's response to claims that such treatment amounts to double taxation and (c)

what sum does the Government estimate will be collected from GST paid on (i) motor vehicle leases and (ii) vehicles purchased for a residual value arising from leases spanning 1 July 2000.

- (3) Will the Government remove the GST from periodic payments and the residual purchase prices of motor vehicles arising from transitional leases; if not, why not.

28 August 2000

1875 **MR EDWARDS:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) Has he received a letter from Mr Bob Buick MM regarding the unfair treatment Australian veterans are receiving from the Government over approvals to wear Vietnamese Awards granted following the battle of Long Tan.
- (2) Will he ensure that this matter is reviewed and will he give personal attention to that review; if not, why not.

MR K. J. THOMSON: To ask the Ministers listed below (questions Nos. 1878 - 1879)—

- (1) Has the Minister received advice from the Treasury or the Australian Taxation Office since March 1996 on the risk to revenue from employee benefit tax avoidance schemes.
- (2) If so, (a) when was each piece of advice received, (b) what course of action was recommended in each case and (c) what action did the Government take in response to each of these recommendations.

1878 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer.

1879 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer.

1881 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Has his attention been drawn to any businesses that have not paid employees the tax cut that they were meant to receive after 1 July 2000.
- (2) If so, (a) how many businesses are you aware of in this situation and what do you believe the total loss to employees may be, (b) what opportunities do employees have to pursue unpaid tax cuts, (c) what action is the Government taking to pursue unpaid tax cuts on behalf of workers.

1882 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Of the 137 registered software products on the registered software facility, (a) are all of these products 'GST ready' (b) what testing procedures or standards must they meet and (c) who assesses the products.
- (2) If approved products are used and result in incorrect business activity statements due to software error, will the users, the ATO, or the producers be liable for any fines or penalties associated with lodging incorrect returns.

30 August 2000

1890 **MR SAWFORD:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Will he amend the levy arrangement for each stevedore's liability so that the levy payment will terminate upon repayment of the amount received from MIFCo funding, plus accrued interest and related costs.

- (2) If not, will he implement an alternative remedy for Sea-Land in South Australia so that levy payments made by Sea-Land that exceed the aggregate of MIFCo funding received by Sea-Land plus accrued interest and administrative costs are rebated by the Commonwealth Government to South Australia for the specific purpose of re-investment in new technology and equipment to improve the productivity of the Adelaide Container Terminal; if not, why not.

31 August 2000

1906 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) What programs based on the principle of pooled Federal and State health funding is the Government trialing and what health services are involved.
- (2) In each case, how is the day-to-day administration of the funding pool being managed.

4 September 2000

1913 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services—

- (1) For each State and Territory, what proportion of Australian (a) three year olds and (b) four year olds attend preschool education.
- (2) How do these statistics compare with other OECD nations.
- (3) What initiatives has the Government taken to: (a) improve basic literacy and numeracy skills in preschool and (b) introduce diagnostic testing for speech and hearing among preschool students.
- (4) Does the Government propose to introduce a national preschool program.

6 September 2000

1941 **MR HORNE:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) Has his attention been drawn to promises made on numerous occasions in recent years by members of his Government to base the Airborne Early Warning and Control unit at RAAF Base Williamtown.
- (2) Has the Minister for Defence indicated that he will be retiring from politics at the end of 2000; if so, will he assure the people of the Hunter Region that his Government will support the Airborne Early Warning and Control unit at RAAF Base Williamtown.

7 September 2000

1964 **MR DANBY:** To ask the Minister for Reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs—

- (1) How many (a) barristers, (b) solicitors and (c) administrative staff were employed by the Commonwealth of Australia in Darwin for the conduct of the recently determined Stolen Generation Cases (*Cubillo v. Commonwealth of Australia* and *Gunner v. Commonwealth of Australia* ("the Stolen Generation Cases")).
- (2) Other than barristers, solicitors and administrative staff employed by the Commonwealth in Darwin in connection with the Stolen Generation Cases,

were there other barristers, solicitors, administrative staff and others employed by the Commonwealth in the conduct of the Commonwealth's case; if so, how many (a) barristers, (b) solicitors, (c) administrative staff and (d) others were employed by the Commonwealth in places other than Darwin in the conduct of the Stolen Generation Cases.

- (3) What has been the total cost to date, or if precise figures are not available, the approximate total cost, of the conduct of the Commonwealth's case in the Stolen Generation Cases.
- (4) Who instructed counsel for the Commonwealth about the scope of their cross-examination of Mrs Cubillo, Mr Gunner and other witnesses called by the applicants in the Stolen Generation Cases.
- (5) Is it expected by superior courts in Australia that the Commonwealth will conduct all litigation in which it is involved as a model litigant.
- (6) Did the counsel for the Commonwealth in the Stolen Generation Cases suggest to Mrs Cubillo and Mr Gunner in cross-examination that they were lying and suggest to the Honourable Justice O'Loughlin in submissions that Mr Gunner and Mrs Cubillo were lying about their experiences; if so, what was the basis of such suggestions.
- (7) Did counsel for the Commonwealth submit to the Court that witnesses called by Mr Gunner who gave evidence of sexual abuse in St. Mary's Home in Alice Springs were lying and had conspired to concoct false evidence; if so, what was the basis of such submissions.
- (8) Was counsel for the Commonwealth involved in passing on evidence given in the case of *Gunner v. Commonwealth of Australia* to Mr Constable, the person found by Justice O'Loughlin to be the sexual molester of Mr Gunner, so as to permit Mr Constable to change his evidence.
- (9) Did (a) he or (b) the Prime Minister give instructions to counsel for the Commonwealth concerning the conduct of the Stolen Generation Cases.
- (10) Did the Commonwealth employ private detective agencies in conducting the Stolen Generation Cases; if so, what was the cost of hiring these private detective agencies.
- (11) Is it standard practice for the Commonwealth to employ private detectives in the conduct of civil litigation.
- (12) During the conduct of the Stolen Generation Cases, were there members of the Prime Minister's staff present in court at any time.
- (13) Did members of the staff of the Prime Minister or members of his staff instruct counsel for the Commonwealth as to the nature and scope of cross-examination.
- (14) What is the total number of applicants bringing Federal or High Court proceedings against the Commonwealth of Australia similar to the cases brought by Mr Gunner and Mrs Cubillo.
- (15) What is the total number of cases brought against the Commonwealth by persons alleging that they are the children or grandchildren of Aboriginal people removed from their families.

- (16) Have any attempts been made by the Commonwealth to resolve the claims brought against the Commonwealth in cases similar to that brought by Mr Gunner and Mrs Cubillo; if so, what attempts have been made.
- (17) Has an estimate been made of the cost of resolving all Stolen Generation litigation brought against the Commonwealth without requiring further litigation; if so, what is that estimated cost.

3 October 2000

1967 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Attorney-General—Further to the answer to question No. 1580 (*Hansard*, 31 August 2000, page 18047), will he update that answer in respect of the meeting of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General held in Brisbane on 27 to 28 July 2000.

1979 **MS HOARE:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) Has the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) recommended that the pharmaceutical Ritalin (methylphenidate hydrochloride) be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.
- (2) Did he accept the recommendation made by the PBAC in relation to Ritalin; if not, why not.

1980 **MR TANNER:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) What are the estimates for (a) 2000-2001, (b) 2001-2002, (c) 2002-2003 and (d) 2003-2004 for the Regional Solutions Programme (RSP).
- (2) For each year referred to in part (1), of the totals for each year, what amounts are to come from reductions in funding for the Regional Assistance Programme and what amounts from the sale of an Australian Maritime Safety vessel.
- (3) Have the amounts for the RSP been incorporated into the forward estimates; if not, when will this occur.

2000 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Does a landlord require an Australian Business Number (ABN).
- (2) Does a tenant require an ABN.
- (3) Is a tenant who is operating a business from their rented accommodation required to supply an ABN to the landlord.
- (4) Does Taxation Ruling MT 2000/2 state that “If you let out residential premises where the whole of the premises is to be used predominantly for residential accommodation purposes you are entitled to get an ABN, but you do not need one for PAYG withholding purposes”; if so, what is the definition of “whole” and “predominantly” and how is the determination arrived at.
- (5) If a taxpayer rents a residential flat and uses one of the three bedrooms to run a web publishing business is he or she required to provide an ABN to the landlord.
- (6) How does a landlord determine (a) the use of the premises and (b) whether or not they should require the presentation of an ABN.

- 2001 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) What is the average or standard cost of providing a woman with in-vitro fertilisation treatment.
 - (2) How much of the cost is (a) covered by Medicare and (b) paid by the patient.
- 2010 **DR THEOPHANOUS:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs—
- (1) Are the Government's various visa requirements for skilled and extended family immigration designed to cater only for individuals coming from countries that have the educational and technical base to achieve high levels of skilling; if so, what is the Government's response to claims that the requirements discriminate against people coming from countries such as the Pacific Islands where skilling opportunities are rarely available.
 - (2) Will he introduce immigration guidelines which permit a variation in skills assessment such that people coming from those countries where skilled training opportunities are less available, or not available at all, would be given the opportunity to enter Australia on the basis that they can complete their training in this country.
 - (3) If not, will the Government introduce a special immigration program for people from the Pacific Islands, as currently exists in New Zealand, including a program to bring Pacific Islanders to Australia for skills training.
 - (4) Have Australian parliamentary committees in the past recommended such a course of action.
 - (5) Has the Government received representations from Pacific Island governments in relation to the availability of visas for Pacific Islanders; if so, what has been the Government's response to the representations.

4 October 2000

- 2013 **MR CREAN:** To ask the Treasurer—
- (1) In respect of the Petroleum Resource Rent Tax, what was the 2000-01 Budget revenue estimate for the 2000-01 financial year.
 - (2) On what price per barrel of oil was this estimate based.
- 2015 **MS HOARE:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) What is the cost, on an annual basis, of the Government's 30 per cent private health insurance rebate scheme.
 - (2) Are premium loadings for people who delay taking up private health insurance membership under the Lifetime Health Cover covered by the Government's 30 percent private health insurance premium rebate; if so, what is the projected effect on the total cost of the 30 percent private health insurance rebate of the Lifetime Health Cover scheme premium loadings.
- 2016 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—
- (1) Is he aware that the ATO deducted company tax payments from GST refunds around 1 September 2000.

- (2) Is he also aware that this caused some companies to make a “double payment” of company tax as some companies had already paid their company tax when it was due.
- (3) How many companies had their company tax payment taken from their GST refunds.
- (4) How many companies has the ATO had to make refunds to as a result of the double payments.
- (5) What is the total of the extra tax collected by the ATO as a result of the double payments.
- (6) How long did it take the ATO to refund this money to small businesses.
- (7) Was interest paid to the affected companies; if so, how much.
- (8) Did the ATO notify affected companies that it would deduct company tax due from GST refunds; if not, why not.
- (9) What measures have been taken to prevent this occurring again.

2017 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Is it the case that some prime contractor transport operators are forcing some sub-contractors to accept commercially unconscionable rate cuts as a means for prime contractors to extract from sub-contractors lower rates in order to pass through savings under the new tax system to customers.
- (2) Is it the case that reported GST freight rate cuts may be unfairly based as they do not take into account other cost increases such as fuel price rises which have increased by up to 47 per cent since last year.
- (3) Is it the case that the impact of such unfairly based GST freight rate cuts may result in sub-contractors compromising maintenance and general safety issues due to the requirement to accept commercially unsustainable rates to remain in the road transport industry.
- (4) Taking into account the application of the chain of responsibility principle to prime contractor transport operators and the capacity, in the case of a fatal accident involving a sub-contractor for example, for a prime contractor transport operator to be prosecuted due to their imposition of commercially unconscionable rates on sub-contractors, does the Government intend to take any action on these commercially unsustainable rates; if not, why not.
- (5) Is it a fact that police raids on a truck shop at Peak Hill near Parkes, NSW, and various locations in Victoria, Queensland and the ACT on 8 August 2000 led to the arrest of eight people including three truck drivers, allegedly involved in the production and distribution of methyl-amphetamine (speed).
- (6) Is it the case that freight rates are so low at the moment that employee and owner drivers may be forced to drive longer and faster and resort to the use of drugs to meet client demands.

2018 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Given the Government’s support for the chain of responsibility principle in road transport, what is the Government doing to make the chain of responsibility a feature of commercial transport dealings and thereby

stopping trucking companies from taking short cuts with safety, putting lives at risk and undercutting operators who work by the rules.

- (2) Is it the case that until the chain of responsibility concept becomes a feature of commercial dealings, transport prime contractors will continue to pressure sub-contractors to conform to schedules which cannot be met without breaking laws such as driving hours legislation, occupational health and safety legislation and industrial relations legislation.
- 2019 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—What action does the Government intend to take in relation to (a) the failure by Western Australia to introduce the uniform national licensing and registration reform and (b) the proposal by the Northern Territory Government to introduce a licence demerit points scheme that excludes intrastate drivers who commit road safety offences.
- 2020 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) Under which program did the government grant \$4.5m over three years to the Inland Marketing Corporation and for what purpose is the grant to be used.
 - (2) Does the grant of \$4.5m reflect a change in Government policy from one of opposition to the Inland Marketing Corporation's proposed major airport development at Parkes, NSW, to one of support for the proposed Inland Marketing Corporation's proposed airport; if so, what was the basis of this change in policy.

5 October 2000

- 2022 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 1611 (*Hansard*, 4 October 2000, page 18682), how did inviting all Coalition Members and Senators and only two Opposition Members and an Opposition Senator and one Democrat Senator to the Summit Dinner contribute to providing “all Australians with a better understanding of the needs and concerns of regional Australia”, as stated in the aims of the Summit.
 - (2) Did the Summit Reference Group consider inviting more community representatives and fewer politicians to the dinner.
 - (3) Is the Government planning to hold another Regional Summit; if so, are any plans being made to include more community representatives and fewer politicians.
 - (4) Under what criteria did the Government invite all Coalition Members and Senators, but not all Members of other political parties.

9 October 2000

- 2031 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—With respect to the Roads of National Importance program can he provide the requests for funding under this program submitted by each State and

Territory Government for the (a) 1999/2000, (b) 2000/2001 and (c) 2001/2002 financial years.

10 October 2000

2037 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Is he aware of reports that his electorate officer, Margaret Nicolls, contacted the Tax Office on behalf of a constituent, and was told by an officer of the Tax Office that it was about time the Treasurer knew what people were experiencing with the delays and current workload of the ATO.
- (2) Is it the case that bad language used by the Tax Officer was the subject of a report to him.
- (3) Has the Tax Officer concerned been the subject of disciplinary action; if so, what action was taken against him

2038 **MRS CROSIO:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) How many businesses in the electorate of Prospect have been issued with a Review of Business Activity Statement.
- (2) What is the average time taken for the ATO to conduct a Review of Business Activity Statement.
- (3) Is a business required to close during a Review of Business Activity Statement.
- (4) If daily business operations are disrupted during a Review to the extent that trading is affected, will the ATO compensate the business for lost revenue.
- (5) What is the average period of time between the completion of a review and the business owner being notified of the result.
- (6) How many employees of the ATO have been assigned to conduct reviews of Business Activity Statements in the South Western Sydney region.

2039 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) What are the details of the framework implemented “to give effect to the Prime Minister’s commitment to maintain government service levels right across the Commonwealth” referred to in his letter to participants in the Regional Summit, including (a) when and (b) how the public was informed of it.
- (2) What mechanisms and processes for complaints of diminished services are included in that framework.

2040 **MR MOSSFELD:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Is he aware that the GST is being charged on Vitalcall services adding around \$56 to the cost of this potentially lifesaving service.
- (2) Does he acknowledge that Vitalcall is an essential health service for sick and elderly people in the event of serious illness or accident.
- (3) Did the Minister for Health and Aged Care raise this matter with you or your department at any stage during the drafting of the GST legislation; if not, why not.

- (4) Will he act to ensure that the GST is removed from this service for elderly people; if not, why not.
- 2041 **MR MOSSFELD:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) Is he aware that the GST is being charged on Vitalcall services adding around \$56 to the cost of this potentially lifesaving service.
 - (2) Does he acknowledge that Vitalcall is an essential health service for sick and elderly people in the event of serious illness or accident.
 - (3) Did you or your department raise this matter with the Treasurer or his department at any stage during the drafting of the GST legislation; if not, why not.
 - (4) Will he act to ensure that the GST is removed from this service for elderly people; if not, why not.

11 October 2000

- 2042 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—
- (1) In the event that a person or company pays a large amount of money, for example \$38 million, for exclusive access to another person's or company's private golf club, under what circumstances would that payment be (a) tax deductible for the person making the payment and (b) taxable for the person receiving the payment.
 - (2) If the payment was considered to be tax deductible for the payer would it necessarily be considered taxable for the payee.
- 2044 **MS O'BYRNE:** To ask the Attorney-General—
- (1) During the period 1 January 1997 to date, what is the average number of days that a Judge of the Family Court of Australia sat in Court for proceedings other than giving judgments.
 - (2) During the period 1 January 1997 to date, how many days has the Hobart based Family Law Court Judge sat in Court for proceedings other than giving judgments.
 - (3) How many reserved judgments of the Hobart based Family Law Court Judge are outstanding
 - (4) In respect of the Hobart based Family Court Judge what was the date of the last day of hearing of those matters where judgment remains outstanding.
- 2046 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Prime Minister—
- (1) Apart from Badgery's Creek, what other sites is the Government considering in relation to the location of a second airport for Sydney.
 - (2) Is he able to confirm recent media reports which record him as saying that Sydney Airport coped well during the Sydney Olympics.
 - (3) In light of the success of Sydney Airport coping with the Olympics, does Sydney need a second airport.

12 October 2000

- 2053 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Treasurer—Did the Australian Taxation Office conduct a major audit of transfer pricing practices in 1998; if so, what information and conclusions did the audit reveal.
- 2054 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Treasurer—What proportion of Australian individual taxpayers complete their tax returns without professional assistance.
- 2058 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Treasurer—
- (1) What assessment has the Government made of competitive federalism practices by the States and Territories, particularly the financial cost to the public sector of (a) taxation discounting designed to attract investment, (b) direct financial subsidies to the private sector, (c) subsidies on government business enterprise pricing and (d) local preference clauses in State and Territory tenders.
 - (2) What adjustments in Commonwealth financial payments are made in response to the practices referred to in part (1).
 - (3) What other Federal Government policies are designed to prevent investment bidding wars between the States and Territories.
- 2059 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Treasurer—Has he received advice from the Australian Taxation Office regarding the incidence of tax evasion and tax minimisation following the Government's decision to halve the capital gains tax rate; if so, what are the details.
- 2062 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) Did the Government, in negotiations with Australian Democrats, promise to introduce a National Child Nutrition Program to compensate people on low incomes for the impact of the GST.
 - (2) Have applications been called for under the program; if so, (a) when did applications for the program open and close and (b) what progress has been made in allocating funds and commencing projects.
- 2067 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services—
- (1) For each of the past 10 years how many people have been classified by DSS/Centrelink as incapacitated unemployed within the (a) Job Search Allowance (b) Newstart Allowance and (c) Youth Allowance (other) programs.
 - (2) For each of the past 10 years how many people have been classified by DSS/Centrelink as eligible for Sickness Allowance.
- 2072 **MS ELLIS:** To ask the Minister for Aged Care—
- (1) Between March 1996 and August 2000, how many spot checks were carried out on nursing homes within the electoral division of Canberra.
 - (2) How many complaints regarding nursing homes within the electoral division of Canberra were received by her in (a) 1996, (b) 1997, (c) 1998, (d) 1999 and (e) 2000.

- (3) Will spot checks be undertaken by her Department after a nursing home receives accreditation; if so, will they be done on a yearly, half-yearly, quarterly, monthly or random basis.

2074 **MR RUDD:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Is he aware that ATO customers are having to wait for up to 90 minutes on the telephone before reaching ATO staff in order to obtain advice on PAYG and other tax policy changes.
- (2) What is the average time delay for ATO customers between a customer initiating a telephone call to the ATO and calls being answered by ATO staff.
- (3) Has this delay changed over the last two years; if so, what are the details.
- (4) Given the quantity and complexity of tax policy change, are these delays in obtaining advice considered acceptable for the Australian public.
- (5) Does he intend to take action to reduce the average telephone waiting time; if so, (a) what are the details and (b) by how much will these waiting times be reduced.

2076 **MR RUDD:** To ask the Minister for Defence—

- (1) When did the Indonesian Government notify the UN in East Timor of their request for assistance in evacuating UN staff from Atambua in West Timor in early September.
- (2) What was the precise content of this request.
- (3) Once this request was received by the UN in Dili, to which (a) elements of the UN Peace Keeping Forces and (b) individuals was it passed.
- (4) Was this request passed to the Australian Government; if so, (a) when was this done, (b) to whom was it passed in the first instance, (c) who considered this request and decided on the response, (d) when was it replied to, (e) what was the content of the reply, (f) to whom in East Timor was the reply delivered and (g) (i) when and by what chain of command was this reply conveyed to Australian field units in East Timor and (ii) what did those units then do in response.
- (5) What role did (a) Australian units and (b) New Zealand units play in the evacuation of UN staff.
- (6) What policy and procedures govern Australian military responses to situations such as that which arose from the request for the evacuation of UN staff from Atambua; were those policies and procedures followed in that instance and have they subsequently been changed; if so, in what respect.
- (7) Apart from a request from the Indonesian Government was there also a request for assistance from the UNHCR itself on the day of the Atambua murders; if so, (a) what was that request, (b) when was that request made, (c) by whom was it made, (d) to whom in the UNTAET was it delivered, (e) when was it conveyed to the UNPKF, (f) when was it conveyed to (i) Australian military units in East Timor and (ii) to the Australian Government, and (g) what was the Australian response.

2077 **MRS CROSIO:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Does the Government support the proposal for the Sydney West Orbital.

- (2) Did the Minister recently meet with the Sydney West Orbital Task Force in Canberra.
- (3) Is he aware of reports that the population of Western Sydney, which will benefit the most by the construction of the orbital, will grow from 1.2 million to 1.4 million, an increase of over 266,000 over the next twenty years.
- (4) Is he aware that by the year 2006, 55 million tonnes of freight will be moved along the route proposed for the West Sydney Orbital and that this is a 40 per cent increase over 1996.
- (5) What consideration, if any, has the Government given to the immediate start of construction on the Sydney West Orbital.
- (6) Has land been acquired by the government to be used for the construction of the orbital.
- (7) Will the Government use any funds from the recent increase in petrol excise to allocate funds towards the building of the Sydney West Orbital.
- (8) Has the Government considered a full cost analysis of the Sydney West Orbital.
- (9) Is he able to say whether the Government will make a decision on the Sydney West Orbital by 31 December 2000.

2079 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—For each of the last ten financial years, what has been the (a) dollar amount and (b) proportion of Commonwealth road funding to each State and Territory.

30 October 2000

2087 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Is he able to say who profited from the 13 minutes of trading in ASX on Tuesday, 10 October 2000, before trading was halted, after his announcement of an increase in the individual shareholding limit for the ASX, during which time ASX shares jumped from \$10.96 to \$11.70.
- (2) Is it a fact that the ASX, the regulator of the Australian Stock Exchange, cannot investigate itself; if so, will he request the Australian Securities and Investments Commission to investigate.

31 October 2000

2095 **MR ANDREN:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Does page 4 of the Australian Taxation Office's June 2000 publication *Off-Road Diesel Fuel Rebate Scheme Guide for Claimants* state that under proposed regulations, like fuels will include heavy fuel oil, light fuel oil and all fuels that attract the same rate of duty as diesel (except for gasoline, coal tar, and coke oven distillates).
- (2) Since 1 August 2000 have both diesel and unleaded petrol attracted excise of 38.118 cents per litre.

- (3) Given that unleaded fuel is more environmentally friendly than diesel, and is taxed at an identical tax rate, why is the Off-Road Rebate not available for unleaded fuel used for qualifying off-road purposes.
- (4) Given the current high cost of diesel, will the Government extend the Off-Road Rebate Scheme to cover unleaded fuel; if not, why not; if so, when will this happen.

2096 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—Further to the answer to question No. 209 (*Hansard*, 11 May 1999, page 4165 and 23 June 1999, page 5736), what proportion of (a) total health expenditure in Australia was funded by health insurance funds in each year since 1996-97 and (b) recurrent health expenditure was funded by health insurance funds for (i) public acute care hospital, (ii) private hospitals, (iii) medical services, (iv) dental services, (v) other professional services and (v) all other services in each year since 1996-97.

1 November 2000

- 2101 **MR ALBANESE:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) How many resolutions have been carried by the Sydney Airport Community Forum since its formation in 1996.
 - (2) How many resolutions have been supported by the Government with action.
 - (3) What were the resolutions referred to in part (2).
- 2103 **MS O'BYRNE:** To ask the Attorney-General—
- (1) Does the web site of the Federal Magistrates Service advertise the existence of a Magistrate based in Launceston.
 - (2) Is it normal practice for Federal Courts to publicise the existence of a judge or magistrate when the official is yet to be appointed.
 - (3) Will he ensure that the web site of the Federal Magistrates Service accurately reflects the Government's progress in appointing a Magistrate to Launceston.
- 2107 **MS LIVERMORE:** To ask the Attorney-General—
- (1) With respect to the recent and anticipated reduction of counselling services operated by the Family Court, how will counselling services which currently are, or until recently were, provided by the Family Court, be provided in future.
 - (2) How does the Court propose to meet the needs of clients for whom they will no longer be able to offer these services.
 - (3) What role will the community-based not-for-profit organisations, funded to provide counselling services under the Family Law Act, be expected to play in picking up those clients who would have been seen by Court personnel.
 - (4) Where there is more than one community-based not-for-profit organisation which provides such services in a location in which services were previously provided by the Family Court, how will a decision be taken as to which organisation should provide those services.
 - (5) Will these organisations be expected to increase their service levels from within their existing resources.

(6) Will the Court be contracting out mediation or counselling services previously delivered by the Court, and what is the process by which such contracts have been, or will be, awarded.

2110 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—Will he include the drugs Aricept and Exelon, used to treat Alzheimers Disease, on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule; if so, when; if not, why not.

2 November 2000

2114 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Treasurer—For the most recent financial year for which statistics are available, (a) what proportion of Australian taxpayers made capital gains, (b) what proportion of wage and salary earners made net capital gains and (c) what proportion of capital gains was accounted for by (i) property development; (ii) mining; (iii) agriculture; and (iv) trusts and partnerships.

2116 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—For each Federal electorate, what are the names of the private hospitals located within its boundaries and how many beds does each hospital provide.

2117 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Financial Services and Regulation—

(1) Was he, his staff or his Department consulted by the Chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) concerning the Chairman's decision to write for the *Business Review Weekly* every four weeks.

(2) What is the nature of the ACCC Chairman's appointment and what are the details of the Chairman's remuneration package.

(3) Will the Chairman of the ACCC write for the journal every four weeks, covering any subject he chooses, as reported in the *BRW* on 20 October,

(4) Has the Government developed guidelines or held discussions with Professor Fels about his position and the type of subjects on which he chooses to write.

(5) Will Professor Fels be required to declare publicly any financial benefit he receives for writing for the *BRW*.

(6) Given Professor Fels' heavy workload as reflected in the ACCC annual report 1999-2000, will his remuneration package be discounted for any earnings he receives from the *BRW*.

2119 **MR RUDD:** To ask the Treasurer—

(1) What was the retail price of diesel on (a) 30 June 2000 and (b) 30 September 2000.

(2) What proportion of the 30 September 2000 price was represented either by the GST or GST related factors.

(3) What was the industry-specific rationale for providing both farmers and the heavy transport industry with access to the Diesel Fuel Rebate Scheme.

(4) What was the cost to budget of the application of that Diesel Fuel Rebate Scheme to those two industry sectors.

(5) Is he aware of the impact of the increase in diesel prices on the civil engineering contracting business.

- (6) Will he consider including the civil engineering contracting business within the Diesel Fuel Rebate Scheme; if not, how does this industry sector differ from the two industry sectors to which he has extended the Diesel Fuel Rebate Scheme.
- (7) What was the impact of diesel price increases between 30 June and 30 September 2000 on the construction price of underground power, footpaths, country roads and residential real estate developments for consumers.

2122 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Attorney-General—

- (1) Is the Federal Magistrates Service currently conducting circuits; if so, (a) what are those circuits, (b) how frequent are those circuits and (c) how long does the Service sit in each location on the circuit.
- (2) Will the Federal Magistrates Service conduct circuits in the future; if so, (a) what will be those circuits, (b) how frequent will those circuits be and (c) how long will the Service sit in each location on the circuit.
- (3) Does the work of the Federal Magistrates Service rely on community-based family and relationship counselling services.
- (4) How is the operation of those services co-ordinated with the operation of the Service.
- (5) What are the financial arrangements between the court and the community-based organisations with respect to the provision of family and relationship counselling services, including whether there is an agreed fee schedule.

6 November 2000

2129 **MR JENKINS:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) How many persons in each federal electoral division in Victoria have been awarded the Australian Sports Medal 2000.
- (2) What are the names of recipients in the electoral division of Scullin.

2130 **MR ANDREN:** To ask the Minister for Financial Services and Regulation—

- (1) What is the Government's position with regard to bank account fees (a) in general and (b) charged on accounts held by pensioners.
- (2) Will the Government legislate to prevent banks from charging fees on bank accounts; if not, why not.
- (3) Is he aware that in order to receive their fortnightly Centrelink payments, pensioners are required to have an account with a financial institution and that these commonly attract fees.
- (4) Is he aware of any financial institutions offering fee-free accounts for pensioners, if so, can he identify these.
- (5) Given the Government requires pensioners to have accounts with financial institutions in order to receive government payments, will it legislate to prohibit the charging of fees on these accounts; if not, why not.

7 November 2000

2137 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 1924 (*Hansard*, 2 November 2000, page 19584), has his Department advised him of expected savings for public hospitals from the 30% private health insurance rebate; if so, what does the advice reveal.
- (2) What cost: benefit outcome for public hospitals does the Government expect to achieve from the 30% rebate.

2138 **MRS CROSIO:** To ask the Minister for Veterans' Affairs—

- (1) Has his attention been drawn to a recommendation from Major General Mohr in an independent report stating that Australian civilian surgical and medical teams operating in Vietnam during the Vietnam War be deemed as performing qualifying service for repatriation benefits.
- (2) How many Australian civilian surgical and medical teams who served in Vietnam were awarded the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM).
- (3) Were Australian civilian surgical and medical officers who served in Vietnam awarded an AASM on the basis that they were integrated with the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and performed like functions with their ADF counterparts.
- (4) Will he amend the Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Budget Measures) Bill 2000 to allow Australian civilian surgical and medical teams access to repatriation benefits; if not, why not.

8 November 2000

2140 **MR FITZGIBBON:** To ask the Treasurer—Has his attention been drawn to claims that paragraph (2)(c)(iii) of section 75AU of the Trade Practices Act significantly reduces the prospects of a successful action against GST price exploitation; if so, what is the Government's reaction to the claims.

2141 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Financial Services and Regulation—

- (1) In accordance with the terms of the Airports Act, when will the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) commence its five year Regulatory Review of the airport privatisation process.
- (2) Has his attention been drawn to the concern from airport owners that the ACCC does not have the depth or intricate knowledge of the day to day dynamics of running an airport, nor the ability to foresee the impact of operational and technological advances in the industry; if so, is it appropriate that the ACCC review its own continuing role in regulating the industry.
- (3) Does the Government accept that there is a fundamental contradictory flaw in having a regulator such as the ACCC conduct a review of its own continuing role in regulating the industry, rather than an alternative body such as the Productivity Commission.

- (4) Will the airport owners be consulted about the Regulatory Review and the terms of reference of the review.
- (5) Will the Civil Aviation Safety Authority or the Australian Transport Safety Bureau play any role in the Regulatory Review.
- (6) Will the terms of reference be publicly available.
- (7) Will any party be open to make submissions to the review.

2145 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Attorney-General—

- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 1925 (*Hansard*, 2 November 2000, page 19584), were the last medical reports provided to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) about the state of health of former Senator Malcolm Arthur Colston provided on 7 April 1999; if not, (a) how many medical reports have been submitted to the DPP since 7 April 1999 and (b) what are the dates of these medical reports.
- (2) Since the Media Statement titled “Prosecution of Malcolm Colston”, dated 5 July 1999 which declared that there is no prospect that former Senator Colston will be fit to stand trial in the future, has the DPP’s attention been drawn to reports that former Senator Colston has been observed (a) sitting in the audience of the television show “The New Price is Right”, (b) dining out in Brisbane restaurants, (c) shopping in Brisbane, (d) travelling within and outside Queensland, (e) providing an interview to the media and (f) engaging in correspondence with the print media.
- (3) In light of the above reports on the activities of former Senator Colston since 5 July 1999 and further to the answer to question No. 1925 that, if there was evidence contrary to the earlier advice that former Senator Colston was not fit to stand trial and there was no prospect that he would be fit to stand trial in the future, will the DPP obtain fresh medical opinions on the current state of health of Mr Colston.
- (4) Are the current DPP Prosecution Policies based on the UK Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure, chaired by Sir Cyril Philips, dated January 1981.
- (5) Does he accept the view put forward in paragraph 6.10 at page 128 of the report referred to in part (4) that it is a material consideration of a criminal justice system that the proper objective of a fair prosecution system is not simply to prosecute the guilty and avoid prosecuting the innocent but rather to ensure that prosecutions are initiated only in those cases in which there is adequate evidence and where prosecution is justified in the public interest.
- (6) Does the report further note at paragraph 6.11 at page 129 that the ability of any prosecution system to take account of these considerations of humanity (viz. age, sex, physical and mental condition (of the defendant)) and of other elements of public interest is a hallmark of fairness, provided that such criteria are applied consistently.
- (7) Does the application of the Information Privacy Principles in the way they have been applied to this matter and in the matter of Christopher Skase in the prosecution of justice, combine to produce inconsistency in procedural decision making.

- (8) Is leaving sole responsibility in the hands of the DPP in deciding whether to continue or discontinue proceedings precisely the kind of “lacking effective machinery for achieving conformity in prosecution policies” referred to at paragraph 6.46 on page 138 in the UK report.
- (9) Are the standards applied in weighing these considerations inconsistent with weight to such factors given by the DPP’s pursuit of the prosecution of Mr Christopher Skase.
- (10) Further to the answers to parts (4) and (10) of question No. 1925, are both the policy considerations of adequacy of evidence and justification in the public interest satisfied.
- (11) Is the last available medical evidence now some nineteen months old; if so, does the weight of policy considerations in obtaining further evidence in determining whether to direct the DPP to resume prosecution now outweigh policy considerations that medically preclude former Senator Colston from standing trial.
- (12) Have the compassionate grounds upon which this prosecution was terminated now been exhausted and should fresh evidence be called.

9 November 2000

- 2150 **MR ANDREN:** To ask the Treasurer—Has his attention been drawn to concerns expressed by financial planners that the *New Business Tax System (Alienation of Personal Service Income) Act 2000* unintentionally applies to their activities when they operate similar business structures to other professions such as accountants and lawyers; if so, (a) does the Government view the concerns as justified and (b) what steps will be taken to address the concerns.

27 November 2000

- 2152 **MR KERR:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) Does his Department have a website containing a document outlining National Illicit Drugs Strategy “Tough on Drugs” initiatives at <http://www.health.gov.au/pubhlth/strateg/drugs/illicit/index.htm>.
- (2) Does the document contain up-to-date details of all Howard Government spending under the National Illicit Drugs Strategy “Tough on Drugs” which is the responsibility of his Department; if not, will he provide the information not contained in the document.
- (3) Further to the “Demand Reduction Measures” section of the document and dot point two under sub-heading *Treatment* claiming that funding has been provided for a range of activities aimed at identification, promotion and dissemination of best practice in treatment of illicit drug dependence, (a) was there a budget commitment specific to this funding; if so, when was the commitment made and what were the details, (b) is his Department responsible for providing this funding; if so, where can it be found in the budget papers, (c) what are the criteria for funding under this program and if there is no program, how are funding decisions made, (d) what sum has been spent to date on this program, or if there is no program, what is the total sum which has been given to projects, (e) will he provide details of projects funded, including (i) to whom funding was given, (ii) what the funding was

for, (iii) what sum was provided, (iv) when was funding given, (v) what are the evaluation criteria for projects which have been funded and (vi) what were the outcomes of projects which have been funded.

- (4) Further to the third dot point under *Treatment*, referring to the \$212m Federal Government commitment to the COAG Diversion Program announced by the Prime Minister in April 1999, (a) how many jurisdictions have signed agreements with the Federal Government to implement diversion programs, (b) what are the terms of each agreement, (c) which Department has responsibility for developing the policy and negotiating these agreements, (d) what sum has been allocated to each State under the relevant agreements and will these funding allocations be given as 'one-offs', or is there recurrent funding over a specified time period, (e) is the money being provided to State governments to distribute to various programs or organisations or is the Federal Government directly funding these programs and organisations, (f) what sum has been provided to each jurisdiction to date, (g) what criteria and processes are in place to evaluate the diversion programs in each jurisdiction, (h) when will the Federal Government report on the outcome of these diversion programs and (i) when will agreements be reached between the Federal Government and the other jurisdictions.
- (5) Further to the third dot point under *Treatment* referring to funding of \$11.3m under the COAG Diversion Program agreement to strengthen and support families coping with illicit drugs, (a) over what period will the \$11.3m be made available, (b) is his Department responsible for providing the funding, (c) where can the \$11.3m be found in the budget papers, (d) what guidelines and criteria exist for grants under this funding commitment, (e) what projects have been funded under this commitment and what sum has been given to each project and (f) what framework is in place to evaluate projects funded under this commitment.
- (6) Further to dot point three under subheading *Prevention* referring to the Australian Drug Information Network (ADIN), (a) is the ADIN online; if not, what has been causing the delay and when is it expected to be online, (b) which individuals, organisations and Government Departments have been involved in the development of the ADIN, (c) how long has the ADIN been in development, (d) what is the content of the ADIN, (e) what sum has the ADIN cost to date, and if it is not completed, what are the estimated costs to bring it to completion and (f) what are the estimated costs of maintaining the ADIN, including staffing costs.
- (7) Further to dot point five under subheading *Prevention* referring to the National Illicit Drugs Campaign (NIDC), (a) does his Department have primary responsibility for the NIDC, (b) which other Departments, non-government organisations, experts or other bodies have been involved in developing the NIDC, (c) where can the cost of the NIDC be found in the budget papers, (d) what work has been carried out under the NIDC to date, (e) what is the cost of that work to date, (f) have consultants been employed to develop the NIDC; if so, what are the details of (i) each consultant, (ii) task undertaken and (iii) cost and (g) will there be a national education

campaign carried out in the next twelve months; if so, (i) when will the campaign be launched and (ii) what will the campaign cost.

- (8) Further to subheading *Training* referring to a \$3m three year allocation towards projects to train and better equip front-line workers, (a) where can the \$3m allocation be found in the budget papers, (b) what are the guidelines or criteria for funding projects under the allocation, (c) what framework has been put in place for the evaluation of projects and (d) what funding has been given to projects to date.
- (9) Further to dot point one under subheading *Monitoring and Evaluation* referring to the National Evaluation of Pharmacotherapies for Opioid Dependence, (a) what sum has been allocated to the program, (b) where can the funding be found in the budget papers, (c) what sum has been spent to date and (d) have there been any outcomes from the trials; if so, where and how have these outcomes been disseminated.
- (10) What sum does the Federal Government spend annually on the (a) National Drug Strategy Household Survey, (b) National Coronial Information System and (c) National Illicit Drug Reporting System.

2153 **MR RIPOLL:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Has his attention been drawn to the financial hardship individuals have faced since the Howard Government's failure to introduce a moratorium on GST on building materials and associated costs on building contracts existing prior to 1 July, but not completed before that date.
- (2) Were delays in completing building contracts prior to 1 July 1 a direct result of the introduction of the GST and the rush by individuals to finish or commence building prior to extra charges being incurred after 1 July.
- (3) Is the \$7000 GST rebate offered to first home buyers, designed to offset the cost of GST, being almost entirely used for the purchase of pre-owned homes that do not attract the GST, thereby negating the intended effect of the rebate.
- (4) What is the total sum of revenue obtained by the Government through GST on building contracts that were in existence before 1 July.
- (5) Has his attention been drawn to claims of job losses through the slowdown in the building industry; if so, what action will he take to ensure that the building industry does not collapse.
- (6) Is the introduction of the GST on existing building contracts prior to 1 July in line with the Government's promise that no-one will be worse off under the GST; if so, why have extra costs as high as \$20 000 been incurred by individuals.
- (7) What action will he take to ensure that (a) individuals are compensated for losses incurred due to the introduction of the GST in relation to building contacts, (b) a moratorium is put in place to ensure that building contracts can be completed without further penalty, (c) the building industry does not suffer any further losses and job cuts as a result of the introduction of the GST and (d) individuals are compensated for the extra costs incurred in building contracts as a result of the introduction of the GST.

2154 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Has the Government's attention been drawn to a low-noise approach technique proposed by Ansett involving aircraft on descent into Sydney using minimum power, thereby potentially making less noise until aircraft reach an altitude of 1000 feet; if so, will this proposal be considered as part of the current trial of the new Precision Runway Monitoring System and will that testing include consideration of whether the proposal helps minimise greenhouse emissions.
- (2) Has Airservices Australia or the Civil Aviation Safety Authority conducted any separate analysis or safety assessment of the technique referred to in part (1) or any similar system; if not, why not.

2155 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Has the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) been tracking sales and volume moved in the legal tobacco movement in relation to its enforcement of the excise laws.
- (2) Will he provide a copy of that tracking information.
- (3) Excluding any increase in the rate of excise, has revenue from tobacco excise increased since the implementation of the Excise Amendment (Compliance Improvement) Act.
- (4) Is the ATO monitoring the sales of empty cigarette tubes; if so, what are the results of the monitoring.
- (5) Should controls be introduced on the supply of empty cigarette tubes.
- (6) How many empty cigarette tubes were (a) imported and (b) sold in (a) 1996, (b) 1997, (c) 1998 and (d) 1999.

2157 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) What were the changes made to the Competition Principles Agreement (CPA) the recent Council of Australian Governments (CoAG) meeting on 3 November 2000.
- (2) Will the changes need to be assessed by the Federal Parliament.
- (3) How will the changes address the concerns about National Competition Policy (NCP) expressed in the (a) Productivity Commission's report into the Impact of Competition Policy Reforms on Rural and Regional Australia and (b) Senate Select Committee into the Socio-Economic impacts of National Competition Policy.
- (4) What impact will the changes made have on (a) the perceived economic impact of NCP reforms, (b) the involvement of the public in determining the 'public interest', (c) the transparency of the decision making process surrounding the application of competitive neutrality, (d) the decision making process for assessing jurisdictions implementation process and payment of NCP tranche payments and (e) improving the role of elected Governments in the process.
- (5) Has the five-year review been completed, if not when will it be completed.
- (6) Since March 1996, (a) how often has CoAG met, (b) how often has it considered NCP and (c) what decisions were made.

- (7) Have changes been made to the role of the National Competition Council; if so, what changes.

2159 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Attorney-General—

- (1) In respect of merits review currently provided by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) concerning decisions under the Corporations Law and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act, does the AAT have jurisdiction to provide a person with a right of review if the Australian Securities and Investments Commission orders that he or she be banned from dealing in securities or banned from being a director of a company.
- (2) Has provision been made to transfer these jurisdictions to the Administrative Review Tribunal in the Administrative Review Tribunal (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2000; if not, (a) why not and (b) what alternatives to merits review have been provided for people who wish to challenge decisions of this kind.

2162 **MR DANBY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Further to the answer to question No 1797 (*Hansard*, 6 November 2000, page 19674) in which he quotes Mr Corrigan as saying that since the Government's most recent waterfront reform, stevedoring charges have declined, has the increase in productivity due to higher crane lift rates and the reduction in the workforce led to the declining charges.
- (2) Are importers and exporters paying the same stevedoring rates, and in some cases higher rates, as they were paying prior to the waterfront reform; if so, why.

2169 **DR LAWRENCE:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) Prior to being reimbursed by the Health Insurance Commission (HIC) for the provision of traditionally non-medical services such as acupuncture, naturopathy, homoeopathy or manipulation, are medical practitioners required to have attained formal distinct accreditation in those services; if not, will the Government close this loophole.
- (2) Specifically regarding spinal manipulation, do medical undergraduate courses in Australia provide education and supervised clinical experience that equate with the qualifications required by State and Territory Governments of a chiropractor or an osteopath to gain registration; if not, do State medical registration boards know which medical registrants have completed post-graduate training that would equate with the qualifications required by State and Territory Governments of a chiropractor or an osteopath.
- (3) Do State medical registration boards provide the HIC with a record showing which registrants have, or do not have, that equivalent qualification to provide spinal manipulation.
- (4) What arrangements does the Federal Government have in place to permit the HIC to differentiate between those medical providers who have, and those medical providers who do not have, that equivalent qualification to provide spinal manipulation.

- (5) Does the HIC know which medical providers are, or are not, qualified to provide spinal manipulation.
 - (6) Is it a fact that the HIC will reimburse a medical provider for the provision of manipulation without requiring that the provider has attained a separate and distinct qualification with regard to manipulation.
- 2170 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—What facilities, programs and resources are available to assist the sufferers of Alzheimer’s disease and their carers in the electoral Division of Barton.
- 2171 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources—
- (1) What consultations and negotiations did the Government conduct with Mitsubishi prior to its decision in 1997 to freeze car tariffs.
 - (2) As part of the process referred to in part (1), did Mitsubishi give certain undertakings regarding the future of its car production operations in Australia; if so, what are the details.
 - (3) How many people are employed in the Australian car manufacturing industry.
 - (4) What sums are provided in (a) direct subsidies and support, (b) import protection and (c) other indirect assistance to the car manufacturing industry by (i) the Commonwealth Government and (ii) State governments.

28 November 2000

- 2172 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister representing the Assistant Treasurer—
- (1) Further to the Minister’s answer to question No. 1546 (*Hansard*, 4 October 2000, page 20847), what evidence can the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) provide that it conveyed to Mr Gunton the appropriate information prior to the commencement of bankruptcy proceedings.
 - (2) Did the ATO send the information referred to in part (1) to addresses in the Sydney suburbs of Smithfield and Sutherland, even though Mr Gunton did not reside at these addresses.
 - (3) What evidence can the ATO present that Mr Gunton actually received the information referred to in part (1).
 - (4) Is the ATO aware that it forwarded Mr Gunton’s tax assessments in the mid-1980s to the wrong addresses; if so, what are the details.
 - (5) What evidence can the ATO present showing that Mr Gunton earned income from a commercial enterprise in 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1984 and has it ever conveyed this evidence to Mr Gunton; if so, what are the details.
- 2179 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) Has the Commonwealth Government eliminated Commonwealth public funding for dental care.
 - (2) Have Commonwealth Government cutbacks in dental funding had a crippling impact on NSW dental services.
 - (3) Is the average waiting period for dental surgery at the Dental Clinic at Concord Hospital 18 months.

- (4) Are dental services a joint Commonwealth and State Government health responsibility.
- (5) Will the Commonwealth Government reinstate Commonwealth funding for public dental services.
- (6) Will the Commonwealth Government facilitate negotiations with the State Government to enter into a Commonwealth-State agreement on dental services that clearly outlines the responsibilities of each party.

2181 **MR ANDREN:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources—

- (1) What was the original intent of Division 1 AA - Country of Origin Representations of Part V of the Trade Practices Act, in force since 13 August 1998.
- (2) Why is it that if a qualified claim such as 'Made in Australia from imported goods' is made then the Australian Competition and Consumer Commissioner does not require the producer of the good to meet either the substantial transformation or 50% safe harbour test.
- (3) Does the ACCC's treatment of qualified claims effectively allow products made anywhere in the world, but packed, bottled or assembled in Australia to be labelled as "Made in Australia" ; if not, (a) on what basis is this treatment justified and (b) how is it consistent with the original intent of the legislation.

2182 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) With respect to his decision to select the Gosport Corridor as the preferred by-pass for Moree, NSW, what was the cost of the alternative Bolla Bolla outer by-pass option and did this include the cost of rail overbridges.
- (2) Was any consideration given to, and costings prepared for, a Bolla Bolla by-pass option that used an alternative to rail overbridges, eg level crossings; if so, what was the cost of the modified option.
- (3) What will be the maximum speed allowable for vehicles travelling on the proposed new Gosport Street route and how many sets of traffic lights, pedestrian crossings and roundabouts will be included on the route.
- (4) How do the statistics referred to in part (3) compare with the (a) current route through Balo Street and (b) alternative Bolla Bolla option.
- (5) Did consultation occur with individual residents and businesspeople along the proposed Gosport Street route; if so, (a) what organisation conducted that consultation, (b) how many meetings were held, (c) how many people attended each meeting and (d) what was the outcome of the meetings.
- (6) Has an environmental impact study for the Gosport Street corridor been completed; if so, is it available to the public.
- (7) Was the support of the Moree Plains Shire Council and the Chamber of Commerce for the Gosport route conveyed to the Government in writing; if so, are copies of those letters available to the public.

2185 **MRS CROSIO:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services—

- (1) How many persons within the electoral division of Prospect were penalised for breaches of Centrelink guidelines in (a) 1998, (b) 1999 and (c) 2000.
- (2) How many persons within the electoral division of Prospect were penalised more than once in (a) 1998, (b) 1999 and (c) 2000.
- (3) What is the total sum of money received through penalties of welfare recipients living in the electoral division of Prospect in (a) 1998, (b) 1999 and (c) 2000.

29 November 2000

2187 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Has he received a copy of the report from the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority assessing the respective Murrumbateman by-pass options, including costings; if so, when (a) did he receive the report and (b) will he release a copy of the report to the local community of Murrumbateman for its consideration.
- (2) When will he announce a decision on the by-pass.

2190 **MS BURKE:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) How many recipients of the Australian Sports Medal reside in the electoral divisions of (a) Chisholm, (b) Deakin, (c) Casey, (d) Menzies and (e) Aston.
- (2) What are the names of the recipients in the electoral division of Chisholm.

2191 **MS BURKE:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) Why were the drugs Aricept and Exelon used to treat Alzheimer's disease rejected by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee for Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing in September 2000.
- (2) Will he include these drugs on the PBS and relieve many Alzheimer's sufferers and their carers from the financial burden of these costly but effective drugs.

2192 **MS BURKE:** To ask the Minister for Aged Care—

- (1) How many complaints to her Department has she received about the 75 Thames Street Hostel since it opened.
- (2) On what dates were these complaints made and when were they acted upon by her Department.

2193 **MR BRERETON:** To ask the Minister for Finance and Administration—

- (1) Has the Commonwealth land including the Anzac Rifle Range at Malabar been listed by the National Trust as a most important natural and cultural site on the Sydney Coast.
- (2) Will the Government honour its September 1998 commitment and dedicate the site for passive recreation following the relocation of the Anzac Rifle Range to Holsworthy.
- (3) Will the Government ensure Malabar Headland remains open space and is available to the public for recreation.
- (4) Will the Government institute a plan of management for the site; if so, when; if not, why not.

- (5) Will the Government remediate damage to the site's wetlands caused by the Commonwealth's contract bulldozers during drainage work for a new leachate pond in October 2000.
- (6) Will the Government ensure that any future work on the site does not damage endangered plant communities and the site's fragile wetlands.
- (7) What additional steps, other than signposting, will the Government take to prevent damage to parts of the site as a result of trail bike riding.
- (8) What are the Commonwealth's plans for addressing site contamination including leachate.
- (9) Will the Commonwealth release scientific data on core samples taken from the site.
- (10) Will the Commonwealth agree to regular public consultations between government and local community representatives, *The Friends of Malabar Headland* and ensure that the future of the site is considered in an open and transparent manner.

30 November 2000

2194 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Further to the Roads to Recovery Program, how will the Government ensure that councils maintain their expenditure on local roads.
- (2) On what date is the requested schedule of proposed additional works to be provided to the Federal Government.
- (3) What are the guidelines for preparing and providing that information, including the categories of information on particular projects required to be provided to the Federal Government.
- (4) Will these schedules of proposed additional works be published on his departmental website; if so, when.
- (5) Will the Federal Government monitor the completion of proposed additional works against the schedules submitted; if so, (a) how will that occur and (b) on what timeframe.
- (6) Does the Federal Government have any authority to change or influence the additional works proposed by the councils; if so, what is the extent of that authority.
- (7) How did the Federal Government determine the respective percentage increases in local road funding in each State and Territory.
- (8) When calculating road length in the formula for distributing the funds, (a) what roads were measured and (b) were sealed and unsealed roads, proposed or planned roads and roads that require no maintenance over the next 4 years included.
- (9) What authority does the Federal Government have over States and Territories to require them to maintain their existing levels of local road funding.
- (10) What criteria and guidelines have been issued for the signs required to be displayed at works funded from the new program.

- (11) Will funding be withdrawn if these signs are not displayed.
 - (12) What sum will each sign cost and what sum has been allocated in the program to cover signage.
- 2195 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) Did he issue a joint media release with the Minister for Finance and Administration on 23 December 1998, announcing the placement of a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner at Liverpool Hospital.
 - (2) Did he describe Liverpool Hospital as the largest new teaching hospital in Australia in an underserved region for MRI facilities.
 - (3) Did the Minister for Finance and Administration say in the release that he had worked hard to secure the new technology for the South-West Sydney population of 750,000.
 - (4) Has Liverpool Hospital still not received its MRI scanner after nearly two years; if not, (a) why not and (b) what action is he taking to finally deliver on his announcement of 23 December 1998.
- 2197 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Employment Services—
- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 1658 (*Hansard*, 27 November 2000, page 20073), based on the DEWRSB Small Area Labour Markets, June Quarter 2000 figures, what were the unemployment rates for the Sydney SLAs.
 - (2) How many Job Network sites are located in each of the SLAs referred to in part (1).
- 2198 **MRS IRWIN:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) Did he receive the necessary supporting documentation from the NSW Government in August 1999 for the provision of a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner for Liverpool Hospital under the Federal Adjustment and Relocation Scheme.
 - (2) Did he state in a press release dated 23 December 1998 that subject to the supporting documentation, he expected the hospital to have an MRI as soon as possible.
 - (3) Has he delayed the approval of funding for an MRI scanner for Liverpool Hospital under the scheme; if so, why.
 - (4) When will he approve funding for an MRI scanner at Liverpool Hospital.

4 December 2000

- 2205 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) Has his attention been drawn to the recent report by the international health care coalition, Health Care Without Harm, into the possible health risks to newborns of exposure to chemicals such as ethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP), a chemical found in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) medical products.
 - (2) Are neonatal intensive care units aware of the possible risks of such PVC exposure to newborns and will these intensive care units be seeking to reduce the exposure.

- (3) Will he be requesting further research into the possible risks to newborns of such PVC exposure.

2206 **MR ANDREN:** To ask the Minister for Finance and Administration—

- (1) Is the Commonwealth's funding for the Rural Financial Counselling Service under the Rural Communities program budgeted to end at 30 June 2001.
- (2) Has his Department undertaken an assessment of the Rural Counselling Service as part of its review of the Rural Communities Program; if so, (a) what were the findings and recommendations of that review and (b) how does the Government intend to respond to them.
- (3) In light of his Department's review will Commonwealth funding for the Rural Counselling Service continue past 30 June 2001; if so, in what form will the service continue; if not, why not.
- (4) Since its inception 15 years ago, has the Rural Financial Counselling Service provided a valuable range of educational and advisory services to farmers and rural businesses, particularly in times of economic crisis like the floods that currently afflict farmers and businesses in the electoral division of Gwydir; if not, why not.
- (5) Is the Minister aware that the uncertainty surrounding future funding arrangements for the Rural Counselling Service is creating great anxiety in rural communities throughout Australia; if so, can the Minister outline what steps the Government will be taking to ensure this important service to rural and regional Australia remains intact; if not, why not.

2207 **MS BURKE:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 1940 (*Hansard*, 27 November 2000, page 20076), what were the results of the initial phase of a community consultation program that considered the idea of optional tax returns.
- (2) Did the respondents think that it was a good idea.
- (3) What reservations were expressed.
- (4) As it was decided to not give the proposal a full scale pilot in 2000-2001, is it planned to consider a pilot for 2001-2002 or 2002-2003.
- (5) Has the Australian Taxation Office considered any internal discussion papers on the subject in the last year.
- (6) Given that the proposal is in a formative stage, when will the wider community be given an opportunity to comment on the proposal.

2210 **MR DANBY:** To ask the Attorney-General—

- (1) Has his attention been drawn to remarks made by the Inspector-General of Security, Mr Bill Blick, on the *7.30 Report* on 29 November 2000.
- (2) Was a refugee at a detention centre incarcerated for 2 years on the basis of an assessment passed to Australian security from a Middle East country with a dubious human rights record.
- (3) Was Mr Blick's assessment correct that this was in violation of the internal guidelines laid down in his Department for making assessments about the security risks of refugees.

- (4) Are there any other assessments of refugees that have been reviewed on the basis of abrogation of internal guidelines laid down by his Department after taking advice from security agencies in countries with dubious human rights records.

5 December 2000

2211 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Is it a fact that a KPMG partner has on 8 separate occasions succeeded in having tax officers removed from audits or reviews of his corporate clients.
- (2) Is it also a fact, as claimed by a senior Australian Taxation Office (ATO) Executive, that this partner has been successfully playing ATO staff off against each other and misrepresenting the position of ATO staff involved in tax audits of the partner's clients.
- (3) If so, what action will he take to ensure that KPMG clients are not able to escape paying their fair share of tax as a result of bullying and intimidation.
- (4) Did the ATO remove senior tax auditor Mr Bob Fitton from an audit of Daihatsu Australia, and make a formal apology to Daihatsu Australia after KPMG protested about remarks Mr Fitton made following Daihatsu's announcement that it would cease distributing vehicles in Australia.
- (5) Was it appropriate for the ATO to apologise to Daihatsu and to remove Mr Fitton from the case.

2212 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) What recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) audit of Australian aviation safety referred to in the Civil Aviation Safety Authority's Corporate Plan 2000-2001 to 2002-2003 were not accepted and who made the decision to not accept them.
- (2) What reasons were given to ICAO for not accepting those recommendations.

2213 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) With respect to the surplus achieved by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) in 1999-2000, what was the amount of increased revenue achieved from aviation fuel excise.
- (2) What increase in aviation fuel excise revenue does CASA expect in the current financial year as against the estimate of \$54 million collected on aviation fuel consumption for 2000-2001.

2214 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) With respect to the Australian Transport Safety Bureau's (ATSB) Media Alert regarding Australia's record in 1997 as the sixth worst rank amongst OECD nations for annual motorcyclist fatalities, how many road fatalities of motorcycle riders have occurred in (a) 1997, (b) 1998, (c) 1999 and (d) to date in 2000.

- (2) What action has the Government taken to improve safety awareness for motorcyclists, motorists and the general public about motorcycle safety.
- (3) What amount of the ATSB's budget is allocated to promoting and improving motorcycle safety and how is that budget spent.
- (4) How many motorcycle accidents have been investigated by the ATSB in 2000 and have any safety recommendations for improvements resulted from those investigations; if so, have they been implemented.
- (5) Are there any national standards, programs or campaigns being pursued by the National Road Transport Commission or the Australian Transport Council that relate to strategies to reduce the number of motorcyclist fatalities; if so, what are they.
- (6) Are there any Australian Design Standards for road construction or maintenance that enhance the safety of motorcyclists.
- (7) Which Department, agency or authority is responsible to ensure that National Highways meet design standards and how is that responsibility fulfilled.

2215 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) With respect to the obligations placed on Certificate of Registration holder for aircraft, how many instances in 2000 has the Civil Aviation Safety Authority become aware of where an aircraft owner has failed to pass on maintenance information to an operator, lessor, or maintenance organisation.
- (2) Of those cases, how many owners were (a) investigated and (b) prosecuted, and what was the outcome of those investigations and prosecutions.

2216 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) Is the testing of telephone lines by persons with a disability who are dependent on emergency telephone services a necessary function that must be performed once per day.
- (2) Can the cost of such services total approximately \$90 per year.
- (3) Is the \$16 telephone allowance insufficient to cover this estimated \$90 per year bill.
- (4) For the average disability pensioner is this added telephone expense an unjust burden.
- (5) Will the Minister recommend a review of the telephone allowance for people with disabilities and who are on a disability allowance for the purpose of raising the telephone allowance in parity with their telephone expenditure which is necessary for the servicing of their emergency telephone system.

2217 **DR THEOPHANOUS:** To ask the Minister for Aged Care—

- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 1803 (*Hansard*, 28 November 2000, page 20148), is she stating that both she and her Department have no data regarding both ethnic-specific and multi-ethnic nursing homes and hostels.
- (2) If this is the case, how can she allocate the proportion of the Aged Care Budget for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in

a fair manner which ensures that all communities are provided an equitable level of funding.

- (3) If this is not the case, can she supply the information as requested in question No. 1803.

6 December 2000

2218 **MR ANDREN:** To ask the Minister for Finance and Administration—Further to question No. 2206 regarding the future of Commonwealth funding for the Rural Financial Counselling Service, can he confirm that the Government intends to announce a further year's funding to allow the Service to remain intact until after the next election, but will make no commitment about long term funding for the Service; if so, why has that decision been made; if not, and given funding for the Service has in the past been budgeted for on three year cycles, what guarantees can the Government give before the next election that funding for the Service will continue in the long term.

2219 **MR GIBBONS:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) In his answer to question No. 1644 (*Hansard*, 16 August 2000, page 19216) did he state that the Calder Highway is a State arterial road therefore the responsibility of the Victorian Government.
- (2) Now that the Prime Minister has announced funding of \$1.6 billion for regional, suburban and country roads, will he (a) concede that the Calder Highway is a road of National Importance and (b) allocate funds from the Roads to Recovery program to continue the duplication of the highway.

2221 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) What is the status of the drug RU486 in Australia.
- (2) Is RU486 being used as an abortion drug overseas.
- (3) What are the side-effects of RU486 when it is not properly used in combination with Cyotec (Miseprostol).
- (4) Will RU486 be banned in Australia.

2222 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—Will he include the drug Serc on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for treatment of Meniere's Disease.

2223 **MR FITZGIBBON:** To ask the Treasurer—What proportion of the Government's Fuel Grants Scheme in its first three months of operation was paid to mining companies operating in regions in which the grant applies.

2224 **MR FITZGIBBON:** To ask the Minister for Aged Care—

- (1) How many beds at the Allandale Aged Care Facility in Cessnock are licensed to accommodate people with (a) high-and (b) low care needs.
- (2) What sum of Commonwealth funding did the Allandale Aged Care Facility receive in 1999-2000 for (a) high care, (b) low care and (c) group home residents.
- (3) Is the Hunter Area health service receiving the maximum possible sum of Commonwealth funding for each of the 336 high-care beds at Allandale; if not, why not.

- (4) Has she or her department held discussions with the Hunter Area Health Service regarding proposals to sell the Allandale facility to the not-for-profit sector.
- (5) Have the Hunter Area Health Service and her Department agreed to reduce the number of high-care beds at Allandale by 120; if so, to where will the high-care beds go.
- (6) What mix of high-care, low-care and hostel beds has the Commonwealth agreed to fund under the Hunter Area Health Service's proposal to sell Allandale.
- (7) How much more funding will a not-for-profit provider receive from the Commonwealth over a financial year period than the Hunter Area Health Service receives currently.
- (8) Has the Commonwealth imposed any condition upon the Hunter Area Health Service which leaves it with no choice but to sell the Allandale facility.
- (9) Is the proposed sale likely to lead to a reduction in employment levels at Allandale.
- (10) Has Allandale now achieved full Commonwealth accreditation; if so, was there any delay in awarding accreditation or were any particular care-standard problems identified throughout the assessment process.

2226 **DR THEOPHANOUS:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) Does the Government support the process of reconciliation; if so, why is it opposed to the establishment of a treaty with Australia's Indigenous population.
- (2) Given the positive outcomes of the actions of nations like Canada and New Zealand, who have established treaties with their Indigenous populations, what are his detailed reasons for the belief that the establishment of such a treaty would not be positive for Australia.

2227 **DR THEOPHANOUS:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) In light of the estimated one million Australians who have attended demonstrations around Australia in support of reconciliation with the Indigenous community, does he consider further concrete action is necessary in the process of achieving real reconciliation.
- (2) If so, will he reconsider the abolition of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation on 31 December 2000.
- (3) If not, how does he propose to further the process of reconciliation without the input of such a source of input on issues facing Indigenous Australians.

7 December 2000

2229 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) Why is ReVia (Naltrexone) listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule only to treat those afflicted with alcohol addiction.
- (2) Will ReVia (Naltrexone) be reconsidered for listing on the PBS for treatment of opioid addictions.

- (3) Has his attention been drawn to a Media Release from Orphan Australia, dated 11 December 1999 titled 'Naltrexone wins PBS Listing - but only for alcohol addiction' which states that surveillance figures on heroin deaths found that the only State where deaths are not increasing is WA, where the population-based naltrexone program run by Dr George O'Neil appears to be making a difference.
- (4) Does he accept that ReVia (Naltrexone) is the most successful method of treating opioid addiction in Australia at present; if not, what is the most successful method of treating opioid addiction.

2230 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Financial Services and Regulation—

- (1) Did the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) grant a deadline extension to certain parties in relation to the Sydney Airport Corporation Limited Pricing Inquiry as a result of certain ACCC reports being found to be in error; if so, what errors were found.
- (2) Are the reports in question those published by the ACCC pursuant to the Airports Act and are based on audited accounts that airports are required by the Act to provide the ACCC.
- (3) Has the ACCC been aware of the errors for some time; if so, when did the ACCC first become of the errors.
- (4) Having been advised of the errors, did the ACCC publish a correction; if not, why not and who took that decision.
- (5) What action has the ACCC taken to ensure that all other reports are correct and that such errors will not occur in the future.
- (6) Is he satisfied that the ACCC in publishing incorrect reports and then not correcting them has met its obligations to both the Parliament and the firms that it regulates.

2235 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—Further to the answer to question No. 1196 (*Hansard*, 3 April 2000, page 14531), how many (a) passenger and (b) freight trains are expected to run each day on the federally funded Alice Springs to Darwin railway at the (i) commencement and (ii) forecast peak of the line's operation.

2236 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Did the Ralph Review of Business Taxation recommend a unified entity tax system in which all forms of companies and trusts would be taxed in the same way.
- (2) Did the Government announce in 1999 that these arrangements were due to start on 1 July 2001.
- (3) What progress has the Government made in implementing the recommendation referred to in part (1).
- (4) With the company tax rate at 30% and only one-half of capital gains subject to tax, how will the Government prevent wealthy taxpayers from incorporating, using family trusts and transforming their income into capital.
- (5) Are the incentives to engage in the financial activities referred to in part (4) now greater than when the Ralph reform process began.

- (6) What action has the Government taken to improve the structural integrity of the business tax system and minimise tax avoidance.
- 2237 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—Further to the answer to question No. 1924 (*Hansard*, 2 November 2000, page 22122) and following the release of the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook, (a) what is the cost of the 30 % private health insurance rebate and (b) what amount of savings has this rebate created for the public hospital system.
- 2238 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—
- (1) For each broad type of service categorised in the Medicare statistics, what percentage of services is (a) direct billed and (b) billed at or below Medicare schedule fees.
 - (2) What do the figures referred to in part (1) indicate about the (a) supply of specialist services, (b) inflation of specialists' incomes and (c) extent of competition among the various specialist groups.
- 2239 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—
- (1) What financial support has the Government given to the FarmBis program.
 - (2) Does the program provide subsidies to farmers and their families to participate in a range of adult and community education activities; if so, what are the details.
 - (3) In what other parts of the economy does the Government subsidise the adult learning activities of Australian workers and their families and what are the details of such activity.
- 2240 **MR FITZGIBBON:** To ask the Treasurer—Further to the answer to question No. 1893 (*Hansard*, 28 November 2000, page 20150), what is the aggregate amount of funding provided to Australia's major oil companies under the Government's Fuel Grant Scheme in the first three months from July 2000.
- 2246 **DR THEOPHANOUS:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs—
- (1) How many hunger strikes and other acts of rebellion by detainees have occurred in immigration detention centres since Australasian Correctional Management (ACM) took control of these centres.
 - (2) How do the acts referred to in part (1) compare with the period before ACM took over as the private contractor running these facilities.
 - (3) Is he satisfied that the attitudes of ACM, including its recruitment and personnel strategies, are completely legal and appropriate and have not provoked or exacerbated tensions in the centres.
 - (4) Is he satisfied that no wrongful actions on the part of ACM or its staff have been responsible for provoking protests by detainees at the Woomera Detention Centre.
- 2250 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Treasurer—
- (1) Has his attention been drawn to instances at a number of annual general meetings recently where Westfield, Boral and Davnet circumvented a long standing tradition of a call for a show of hands to register shareholder approval for resolutions or directors put to the vote of publicly listed companies.

- (2) What plans has the Government in train to enforce basic meeting procedures at shareholders meetings of listed companies.
- (3) Is it a fact that over 30% of superannuation funds do not cast their votes at the annual general meeting of listed companies in which they invest.
- (4) Does he have any plans to increase the voting rate of these superannuation funds.

2251 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources—

- (1) Is it a fact that around 200,000 tonnes of fabricated steel is expected to land on Australia's docks in 2000 and such imports will result in the loss of more than five million direct man-hours for the Australian steel fabrication industry, with the consequent loss in skills and industry capability, as well as state and federal taxes, including revenues from the Goods and Services Tax.
- (2) What support can be provided to assist this industry to adapt to this massive increase in imports.
- (3) In light of the Queensland Government's Local Industry Policy, which includes commitment to local industry being given full, fair and reasonable opportunity to tender for major project work, (a) is the Minister aware that, on a number of major resource and infrastructure projects, proponents frame their contract specifications to effectively exclude local industries, such as the steel fabrication industry, from even having the chance to put in for work and (b) when will Government address this situation by introducing (i) a national local industry policy and (ii) Mandatory Project Impact Assessments for major steel projects.
- (4) Is the Minister aware that work undertaken by Australian steel fabricators must comply with the Australian Standards and inspection codes, whilst steel imported from overseas is not required to comply with these standards; if so, how does the Minister propose to address the issue of imported steel not needing to comply with such standards.
- (5) Is the Minister aware that a survey of the top seven fabrication firms in Australia found that almost eight out of ten jobs at those factories would cease to exist by June 2001.
- (6) Is the Minister able to say whether three of the top four steel fabrication firms in Western Australia have closed.
- (7) Is it a fact that the bulk of steel fabrication work on projects including the Visy project at Tumut, NSW, the Callide C. Millmerran and Tarong power stations in Queensland, and the Kwinana Fertiliser Plant in Western Australia, will be imported from overseas.
- (8) Has the Minister's attention been drawn to a report in the (a) *Townsville Bulletin* on 15 August 2000, in which Pacific Coast Engineering Sales Manager stated that the fifteen-year-old company that employed 126 people six months ago now employs only half that number due to foreign imports of steel and will reduce the number of apprentices from 12 to two and (b) *Bundaberg News Mail* of 24 August 2000 stating that Stewart and Sons

reports the loss of a quarter of its steel fabrication workforce as a result of foreign imports.

- (9) Is the Minister aware of estimates by the Australian Institute of Steel Construction that the level of steel fabrication imports increased six-fold between 1992 and 1998 and that around two hundred thousand tonnes of fabricated steel is due to be imported.

2252 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 1441 (*Hansard*, 6 September 2000, page 20370), is it in the public interest to know what percentage of operations under items 34643 and 16525 result in pregnancy termination.
- (2) Further to part (3) of his answer, is he willing to introduce new item codes that separate that percentage of operations procured under Item 34643 and 16525 for curretage of Uterus which separates those operations that do, and do not, procure a miscarriage; if so, when will the introduction of new item codes take place.
- (3) Is he able to estimate the number of late term (terminations occurring on or after the twentieth week of pregnancy) pregnancy abortions that are committed in Australia each year; if not, why not.

2253 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) How many persons taking out private health care policies on or before the 1 July 2000 deadline, have taken out more than basic health care cover.
- (2) Are these new private health care policy holders still eligible for Medicare and public health cover for items not covered by their private health cover.

2256 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Is he able to say what efforts are being made by the four major banks in respect to assisting those affected by floods.
- (2) Is he able to say how many more bank branches are to close in Australia in 2001.

6 February 2001

*2257 **MR RUDD:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) What total costs have been incurred by the Commonwealth in its legal action against me before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the Federal Court over the Brisbane Airport Corporation Master Plan.
- (2) What costs have been incurred for the engagement of (a) Queen's Counsel and (b) Senior Counsel.
- (3) What is the costed-out value of solicitors used from the Australian Government Solicitor and elsewhere.
- (4) What other costs have been incurred.

*2258 **MR RUDD:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—

- (1) Is he able to say what is the current frequency of civil aviation links between Australia and East Timor.
- (2) To what extent has the frequency changed in the last 6 months.

- (3) Are changes proposed in the frequency of flights over the coming six months.

*2259 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) Who recommended the need to appoint a wine consultant for Kirribilli House.
- (2) How was the consultant selected.
- (3) Who is the consultant.
- (4) How many hours has the consultant devoted to the selection of wines, and what is the basis of his or her payment.
- (5) From whom were the selected wines purchased.
- (6) Is he able to say whether the consultant holds any shares or has an interest in the selected liquor companies or wineries.
- (7) What wines were selected for Kirribilli House or The Lodge as a result of the use of a consultant, and what was the purchase price for each of the wines selected.
- (8) In selecting the wines, what guidelines were put in place as to the needs of the occupants of Kirribilli House and The Lodge.

*2260 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—Further to the answer to question No. 1992 (*Hansard*, 7 December 2000, page 20814), in discussions with Australian Transport and Energy Corridor Limited about the proposal to build an inland railway between Melbourne and Brisbane and beyond, has the Government's view been that support for the railway would be on the basis of no cost to Government or on the basis of no net cost to Government.

*2261 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) On what basis was the draft master plan for Coolangatta Airport rejected because the Tweed Shire Council had not agreed to extend the runway into NSW land.
- (2) Have other master plans been rejected because of opposition from local councils.
- (3) Given the importance of Coolangatta Airport to the Gold Coast, did the useful advice referred to in the his Media Release of 1 December 2000 from the Member for McPherson and the Gold Coast business community recommend the extension of the airport.
- (4) Will his Department assist the operators of the Coolangatta Airport in preparing a runway extension confined within the airport site and will he then approve the draft master plan as stated in his Media Release of 1 December 2000, irrespective of the views of the Tweed Shire Council.
- (5) When (a) was Coolangatta Airport built on the current site, (b) did the Tweed Shire Council zone the land in question as crown land and (c) did the local council give approval for residential development right up to the edge of the crown land.
- (6) Has any Member of the House of Representatives or Senate made representations to him, his office or his Department, either written or oral,

against the extension of the runway, be it within or beyond existing airport boundaries.

*2262 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Has his attention been drawn to the detention by the San Francisco Coast Guard in October 2000 of the oil tanker *Neptune Dorado*, with 30 safety and environment faults.
- (2) Had the vessel sailed from Australia; if so, (a) when did it leave Australia and who (b) operated and (c) chartered the vessel.
- (3) How long had the vessel been operating in Australian waters and under which flag was it operating.
- (4) Has this vessel ever been issued with a Single or Continuing Voyage Permit by his Department; if so, when.
- (5) Did the Australian Maritime Safety Authority conduct any inspections of the vessel; if so, (a) how many, (b) when and (c) were any safety breaches discovered.
- (6) Has his attention been drawn to an oil spill on the deck of the tanker *Humbolt Current* in Melbourne; if so, (a) when did it occur, (b) what sum did the clean up cost, (c) were the costs recouped and (d) were any charges laid.
- (7) Under which country is the *Humbolt Current* flagged.
- (8) Has that vessel ever been issued with a Single or Continuing Voyage Permit by his Department, if so, when.

*2263 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) With respect to Airservices Australia's new charging regime for pilot briefing services, what is the total cost to a pilot to access the briefing services under the respective access options.
- (2) Is the information only accessible if the relevant fees are paid.
- (3) Is the information necessary for safe flight and which parts of the service are mandatory for a pilot.
- (4) Are there any systems in place to monitor how many pilots are choosing to not access the services due to either cost or principle.
- (5) Is he able to say whether pilots are charged for this information and service in other countries, including the USA, Canada, UK, France, South Africa, Greece, Germany, Italy, Indonesia, Singapore.
- (6) Is he also able to say whether pilots with internet access can obtain the relevant Australian information without cost from US internet sites.

*2264 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) What was the basis of the Government's decision to move to tied grants for funding under the Roads to Recovery Act and does the decision mean there will be two streams of local roads assistance, with existing grants paid under

the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act and the roads to recovery grants paid under the Roads to Recovery Act.

- (2) How do the distribution of grants under the Roads to Recovery Act compare with those that apply under existing arrangements for the distribution of road grants.
- (3) How do the criteria used under the Act vary from formulae used by State Grants Commissions.
- (4) In the development of the formula used under the Roads to Recovery Act were the State Grants Commissions consulted as to which methodologies should be used.
- (5) On the basis of the formula used under the Roads to Recovery Act, will Victoria, Queensland and South Australia gain under the roads to recovery allocation at the expense of New South Wales, Victoria, West Australia, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.
- (6) How does the monetary value of the grants under the Roads to Recovery Act compare to that which would have occurred if the grants had been determined on the basis of the formula used to determine the interstate distribution of road funds on the basis of the National Principles in the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act.

***2265 MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Has he received a copy of a report titled “Critical Design Deficiencies, Malfunction and Accident Risk Assessment of the Kenworth Air Glide 200 Suspension” from Dr A. G. McLean, Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Wollongong.
- (2) Does Dr McLean’s report identify critical design deficiencies with the Kenworth Air Glide 200 suspension system and recommend the recall and modification of this suspension system.
- (3) Has Dr McLean identified the need for major improvements in the engineering analysis, risk assessment, approval and accreditation procedures for heavy vehicles.
- (4) What is his response to each of the issues raised.

***2266 MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Further to his Media Release on 13 December 2000 regarding the Very High Speed Rail, will he make available all the financial analysis associated with the decision that the Speedrail Consortium’s bid did not meet the no net cost to Government criterion.
- (2) What definition of no net cost to Government was applied to the assessment.
- (3) What sum would the Government have been prepared to contribute to make the Speedrail bid viable.
- (4) Did the statement say that the consideration of financing arrangements will include the preparedness of governments to make financial contributions to the project because clearly public investment would be essential to make the

VHST vision a reality; if so, is the Government prepared to make a financial contribution to the East Coast VHST network project.

- (5) If so, what terms or principles have been set to define the position of the Federal Government in the inter-governmental negotiations to establish the preparedness of governments to make a contribution to the project; if not, when will the Federal Government make a decision on its preparedness to contribute to the project.
- (6) Will the comprehensive scoping study proceed if any government on the East Coast is not prepared to financially contribute to the project or the scoping study.
- (7) Has he written to the NSW, Queensland, Victorian or ACT governments regarding an East Coast VHST project; if so (a) to whom has he written, (b) on what dates and (c) has he received any response to that correspondence.
- (8) Does the Federal Government have a preferred route for the proposed East Coast VHST project; if so, what is the route.
- (9) Has the Federal Government given any commitments to the ACT Government that the East Coast VHST route would pass through Canberra; if so, (a) what are the details of the commitment and (b) when was it given.
- (10) Did the Government rely on any external consultant reports or studies or any submissions from any Department in making its assessment that passenger volumes in Australia are not sufficient to make high speed rail commercially viable without public subsidy; if so, will the reports or studies be made publicly available.
- (11) In relation to the first inter-governmental negotiations on the East Coast VHST project, (a) when and where will they be held, (b) who has been invited, (c) who is convening the meeting, (d) who is funding the negotiations and (e) will the minutes of those negotiations be made public.
- (12) Will the private sector, industry or community representatives be involved in the consideration of the East Coast VHST project; if so, when and who.
- (13) What timeframe has he set for the consideration of and decision on an East Coast VHST project and will an interim report be released at any point in the timeline; if so when.
- (14) Based on the information in the Speedrail consortia's submission, how long does the Federal Government estimate it would take to construct an East Coast VHST link.

*2267 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 1994 concerning the preparation of reports on all projects, grants and funding programs in a number of electoral divisions since March 1996, who requested preparation of the reports for the electoral divisions of Bass, Eden-Monaro, Gippsland, Hindmarsh, Kalgoorlie, Makin and Warringah.
- (2) Who authorised the preparation of the reports and what was the cost of preparation of each report.
- (3) Did consultations take place between his office and officials of the Liberal or National parties about the preparation of the reports.

- (4) To whom and how were the reports distributed.
 - (5) What are the details of the responses prepared by his Department for each of the electoral divisions of Bass, Eden-Monaro, Gippsland, Hindmarsh, Kalgoorlie, Makin and Warringah.
 - (6) When and how were Members of Parliament and Senators advised that it is standard practice for such detailed reports to be prepared for elected representatives of both Government and non-Government parties.
- *2268 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) What action was taken in 2000 by the National Rail Corporation to dispose of surplus railway wagons in an operational condition, including the destruction of wagon stock at Somerton, Vic.
 - (2) Is there a chronic shortage of suitable rail wagons on the national network and could surplus wagons have been sold on the second hand market instead of cutting them up for a sum that may be less than one tenth of the value.
 - (3) Is a second hand wagon worth up to \$25 000 on the second hand market.
- *2269 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) Did the Government announce on 4 January 2001 that a toll, at an expected rate of \$4 to \$5, will be charged on the Western Sydney Orbital; if so, will a toll apply on the proposed new route of the National Highway between the M2 and F3 in Sydney.
 - (2) Whilst the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority will manage the planning study of the proposed link between the M2 and F3, what is the expected cost of the link and at what stage are negotiations between the NSW and Commonwealth Governments as to who will meet the cost of the link.
- *2270 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) Has the network performance and investment audit being undertaken by the Australian Rail Track Corporation been completed; if not, when will it be completed.
 - (2) What sum has the audit cost to date and if it is not complete, what is the expected cost of completing the audit.
 - (3) Which program funded the audit.
 - (4) Will the audit report be released in a draft or final format.
 - (5) When will the audit report be made public.
- *2271 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—
- (1) When will the construction of the Alice Springs to Darwin railway commence.
 - (2) What has caused the delay with the commencement of the project.

*2272 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) What projects or programs have received funding in each year from the allocation of \$250 million over four years by the Commonwealth Government for rail projects.
- (2) Has the full \$250 million been allocated to particular projects or programs.
- (3) On which projects or programs that have received an allocation have works commenced and which projects or programs have been completed.
- (4) In relation to the projects that have not commenced, (a) what was the expected commencement date, (b) what is the cause of the project delay and (c) when will the projects (i) commence and (ii) be completed.
- (5) What sum of the \$250 million allocated in each of the four years has been spent.

*2273 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) With respect to the charging arrangements for the provision of air traffic services, has his attention been drawn to a practice whereby some pilots provide an incorrect aircraft call-sign in order to avoid being billed for landing at general aviation airports.
- (2) What is the penalty for such an act.
- (3) Have any prosecutions occurred for such acts since 1995; if so, how many in each year.
- (4) Are there safety consequences of this behaviour.
- (5) Has Airservices Australia, his Department or the Civil Aviation Safety Authority issued any information warning of the risks and implications of such practices.

*2274 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) What sum has the Commonwealth Government allocated to the dedicated freight line project through Sydney and what is the breakdown of how that allocation is to be spent.
- (2) What sum has been spent.
- (3) What proportion of the total cost of the project is the Commonwealth Government allocation.
- (4) Has the project commenced; if not, why not.

*2275 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) How many locomotives are owned by the National Rail Corporation and of these, how many are in use.
- (2) How many locomotives owned by the National Rail Corporation have not been used in the past 12 months.
- (3) Where are unused locomotives stored and at what cost per annum.
- (4) Did he investigate the options to lease or sell these assets; if not, why not.

- (5) What is the estimated value of these assets (a) at book value and (b) on the open market.

*2276 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Does the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) have a formal media strategy; if so, when was it developed and by whom.
- (2) Was any external consultant engaged to assist or advise in the preparation of the strategy; if so, what organisation and at what cost.
- (3) Did his office have any input into the development of the media strategy; if so, what was the input.
- (4) What are the aims and objectives of the media strategy.
- (5) Is the current performance of the CASA media unit and senior management consistent with those aims and objectives.

*2277 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—Are both Virgin Blue and Impulse airlines meeting their legal obligations with respect to workers compensation payments and superannuation under Commonwealth, State and Territory laws and is such compliance a condition of holding an Air Operators Certificate; if not, why not.

*2278 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Did he announce a Commonwealth contribution of \$550 000 to assist in building a Back o' Bourke Exhibition Centre on the banks of the Darling River, as reported in the *Bulletin* of 30 January 2001.
- (2) On which date was an application lodged for this contribution and by whom was it lodged.
- (3) From which Government program was the money allocated.
- (4) On which date was the contribution announced and how and where was that announcement made.
- (5) What is the full cost to complete the Back o' Bourke Exhibition Centre.
- (6) Is the Commonwealth Government the only donor to the project; if not, who else has contributed financially.
- (7) How many jobs will be created by the proposed Back o' Bourke Exhibition Centre.
- (8) Is he able to say on what basis the *Bulletin* reported that he announced \$550 000 for the current stage of the project and offered the nod and wink that there was more where that came from.

*2279 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Finance and Administration—

- (1) Who has chaired the Australian Political Exchange Council and who is its current chairperson.
- (2) Has each chairperson received fees for chairing the Council; if so, what sum have they received in that role.
- (3) Since its inception, who has been granted overseas study tours by the Council and what political parties did they represent.

- (4) What are the total costs, including airfares and accommodation, for each study trip granted by the Council.

*2280 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Finance and Administration—

- (1) In relation to the sale of Sydney Airport, what has been the commercial return on assets for each financial year of the Sydney Airports Corporation Limited (SACL).
- (2) Does the proposed increase in aeronautical charges of 130% include consideration for pre-existing investment.
- (3) If the proposed increase in aeronautical charges is approved, what is the expected increase in SACL profits for the next full financial year.
- (4) Do current aeronautical charges at Sydney Airport more than allow SACL to recover the costs of its pre-existing investment, if so, is this confirmed by (a) the high rates of return achieved by SACL in 1998-99 and 1999-2000, (b) Standard & Poors A+ long term and A-1 short term credit rating in 1998-99, (c) the Federal Airports Corporation's statements and representations in 1998 that no increase in charges was necessary to achieve a reasonable return on existing investment and (d) current aeronautical charges at Sydney Airport having been set together with those of the Phase 1 privatised airports, which subsequently sold at high earnings multiples.

*2281 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Finance and Administration—

- (1) Further to the announcement on 18 January 2001 of Salomon Smith Barney and Freehills to conduct the scoping study into the sale of the Sydney basin airports, what was the composition of the panel that made the selection.
- (2) Which individuals or organisations were the independent private sector representatives, referred to in the media statement as being included on the panel.
- (3) Who selected the selection panel.
- (4) What are the terms of reference for the scoping study and what is its expected cost to complete.
- (5) When is the first interim or draft report expected, who will receive that report and when is the final report due.
- (6) Will the scoping study be considered by Cabinet.
- (7) What are the objectives of the Government for the sale of the Sydney basin airports.

*2282 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs—

- (1) Has his attention been drawn to an article published in the *Orient* on 29 November 2000 concerning the law offices Adrian Joel and Co relating to class actions on immigration cases.
- (2) Does the article advise that class actions represented by Adrian Joel and Co involve so-called asylum seekers whose applications have been rejected by his Department and the Refugee Review Tribunal, irrespective of whether the applicant's visa has expired.

- (3) Does the article also advise that once the applicant's name is included in a class action, he or she is automatically entitled to a bridging visa and the right to stay in the country until the case is finalised.
- (4) What sum of taxpayers' money has his Department spent in defending the integrity of Australia's migration system against class actions mounted by Adrian Joel and Co and how many (a) class actions has the company mounted and (b) clients are involved in these class actions.
- (5) At what stage are the class actions initiated by Adrian Joel and Co and on what are they based.

*2283 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs—

- (1) Did a detainee die at the Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centre on or about 22 December 2000; if so, (a) how long had he been in Australia, (b) on what type of visa did he enter Australia, (c) when did his visa expire, (d) how long had he been in Australia illegally and (e) how and when did his Department locate him.
- (2) During the course of the person's illegal period in Australia, including when detained in the Detention Centre, did he make any applications to remain in Australia.
- (3) Is there any evidence that the person worked during the period of illegal stay in Australia; if so, who were his employers.

*2284 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Aged Care—

- (1) Further to her decision to grant additional money to the Australian Greek Welfare Society and Co.As.It Victoria under the Government's Ethnic Aged Care Framework, was such a proposal canvassed with her, her office or her Department prior to the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs withdrawing funding to these organisations under the Community Settlement Services Scheme; if so, who was involved in these discussions.
- (2) What sum of additional funding was given to the organisations under the Aged Care Framework, and what sum did they have withdrawn under the Community Settlement Services Scheme.
- (3) When were applications lodged by these organisations for additional funding under the Aged Care Framework and of the applications lodged, how many other organisations applied for funds at this time and what additional funding did they receive.
- (4) What agreement was entered into by the organisations and her Department as to how the additional funds were to be used, and how long will the additional funds apply.
- (5) In considering the requests for additional funding for these organisations, did she or her office receive requests for such funding from the Prime Minister, his office or any other member of the Government; if so, who made such requests and on what dates were these requests made.
- (6) As the Turkish Association of Victoria also lost funding under the Government's Community Settlement Services Scheme at the same time as the Australian Greek Welfare Society and Co.As.It Victoria, were any

requests made at the same time for funding assistance under the Ethnic Aged Care Framework.

*2285 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Justice and Customs—

- (1) When was the Passenger Movement Charge (PMC) introduced, what was the original amount, when has it been increased and by what sum.
- (2) Was the original justification for the charge to recover cost relating to customs, immigration and quarantine processing of international passengers and recovery of the costs of issuing short-term visas; if not, what was the justification for the charge.
- (3) For each financial year since the PMC was introduced, what sum has been collected and what were the costs of providing services for which the PMC was introduced.
- (4) Is the Minister able to say on what basis the Australian National Audit Office Report No. 12 (2000) stated at page 13 that the PMC is now applied partly as a general revenue raising source and is no longer solely linked to a cost recovery of customs, immigration and quarantine services.
- (5) If the PMC now collects more in revenue than the costs of services delivered as originally intended, will the Government freeze the charge until the cost of the service provided exceeds revenue collected for the service by the PMC.

*2286 **MR GIBBONS:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—In light of the fuel tax windfall, will he consider funding the set up of a fuel co-operative in Bendigo, Vic.

*2287 **MR GIBBONS:** To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—Will any decision on the importation of apples and pears from New Zealand be taken only after the Senate inquiry into this matter has concluded.

*2288 **MS LIVERMORE:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) What performance criteria does the ABC have for measuring the quality of service from the transmission providers responsible for ABC television transmission sites in Australia.
- (2) What records does the ABC collect in relation to (a) maintenance and (b) emergency repairs carried out on its television transmission sites.
- (3) What records does the ABC collect in relation to breaks in television transmission.
- (4) What was the performance against the ABC's prescribed criteria referred to in part (1) for the transmission site at Mount Hopeful in Central Queensland in (a) 1995, (b) 1996, (c) 1997, (d) 1998, (e) 1999 and (f) 2000.

*2289 **MR O'KEEFE:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services—

- (1) Is a "life interest" in a farm asset valued and assessed for purposes of the Age Pension assets test.
- (2) Is it a fact that such life interests are not taken into account if a person was receiving social security support at the time the measure was introduced; if

so, will these provisions be extended to people who apply after that date; if not, how does the policy co-exist with the claims made by the Government in its AAA farm package regarding older generational issues.

*2290 **MR O'KEEFE:** To ask the Minister for Aged Care—

- (1) What is the maximum percentage of Age Pension which can be classified as essential expenditure for the purpose of assessing fees payable in aged care facilities.
- (2) Does the Government encourage aged care residents to maintain private health insurance cover.
- (3) Are private health insurance fees regarded as essential expenditure for the purpose of calculating essential expenditure; if not, why not.

*2291 **MR BEAZLEY:** To ask the Attorney-General—

- (1) Has his attention been drawn to a court order issued in Perth in December 1997 giving Mr Peter Brewer rights of access to his daughter, Zoe Brewer.
- (2) Has it been brought to his attention that on 21 April 1998 Mr Brewer's ex-wife and her partner Jose Resina left Australia with Zoe Brewer, and that this act has been determined by the Family Court of Western Australia to be in defiance of its court order granting Mr Brewer rights of access to his daughter.
- (3) Is it the case that Mr Resina illegally left Australia in 1999, thereby forfeiting a recognisance of \$20,000 which was being held by the court.
- (4) Is there any mechanism available to the Commonwealth Government whereby this forfeited recognisance money could be made available to Mr Brewer to enable him to pursue his legal battle to have his daughter returned to Australia.
- (5) In a letter to Mr Brewer, dated 15 January 1999, did the Australian Federal Police undertake to investigate the possibility of extraditing Mr Resina and tell Mr Brewer the Crown Solicitor's attempts in this regard would be monitored; if so, have there been any outcomes from the investigations; if so what are those outcomes.
- (6) What assistance has his Department provided to Mr Brewer following the promise of help in a letter from him dated 25 January 2000.
- (7) Is there any other form of assistance that his Department, or any other Commonwealth Government agency, can offer Mr Brewer in his attempt to have the Family Court's determination enforced.

*2292 **MRS CROSIO:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Has his Department recently held discussions with Fairfield City Councillor Robert Cork, concerning plans to change the local zoning in the Badgerys Creek area.
- (2) Did his Department tell Clr Cork during discussions that the changes to zoning would only approve buildings compatible with an airport.
- (3) When were the discussions were held.
- (4) Which employees of his Department spoke to Clr Cork.

- (5) Has he been involved in any discussions directly with Clr Cork; if so, when were the discussions held.
 - (6) Were other people involved in these discussions; if so, what are the names of the people involved in these discussions.
 - (7) Has his Department plans to change the zoning of the Badgerys Creek area so that only buildings compatible with an airport will be approved.
- *2293 **DR LAWRENCE:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—
- (1) Has there been a request from anyone for terms of the lease to *Christian Voice* of the Cox Peninsula Transmitter; if so, (a) when was it made and (b) what was its disposition.
 - (2) Has the Government instigated, or is it aware of, an inquiry into the nature of *Christian Voice*; if so, what is known about the organisation.
 - (3) Were there other organisations who wished to use the transmitter; if so, (a) who were they and (b) what processes denied them use of the transmitter.
 - (4) Has there been a social impact study on the possible effects of broadcasts by this Christian group to Indonesia during a period of conflict between Christians and Muslims.
 - (5) Has the Indonesian Government or other governments in the range of the transmitter been invited to comment on the *Christian Voice* presence.
- *2294 **MR TANNER:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—
- (1) Has the Office of Government Online or any other agency within the Minister's portfolio attempted to determine the number of Commonwealth transactions conducted online; if so, with what results.
 - (2) If available, what are the numbers of transactions expected in (a) 2000-2001, (b) 2001-2002, (c) 2002-2003 and (d) 2003-2004.
 - (3) What whole-of-government research or investigation has been undertaken by the Minister's Department, or other Departments where known, of expected savings from the growth of Government online services.
 - (4) Can details be provided, including savings expected and realised by portfolio, for (a) 2000-2001, (b) 2001-2002, (c) 2002-2003 and (d) 2003-2004.
- *2295 **MR TANNER:** To ask the Minister for Finance and Administration—
- (1) Has his Department attempted to determine the number of Commonwealth transactions conducted online; if so, with what results.
 - (2) If available, what are the numbers of transactions expected in (a) 2000-2001, (b) 2001-2002, (c) 2002-2003 and (d) 2003-2004.
 - (3) What whole-of-government research or investigation has been undertaken by his Department, or other Departments where known, of expected savings from the growth of Government online services.
 - (4) Can details be provided, including savings expected and realised by portfolio, for (a) 2000-2001, (b) 2001-2002, (c) 2002-2003 and (d) 2003-2004.

- (5) What negotiations have occurred with States and local governments to secure more effective utilisation of public assets such as government shop fronts and service centres.
- (6) Can details be provided of savings expected and realised for the Commonwealth by portfolio, for each State and for each local government area for (a) 2000-2001, (b) 2001-2002, (c) 2002-2003 and (d) 2003-2004.

*2296 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Minister for Finance and Administration—

- (1) What are the Government's plans in respect of the proposed sale of Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport.
- (2) Will the proceeds of the sale be used for a specific purpose; if so, what is that purpose.

*2297 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Attorney-General—

- (1) What steps has he taken since the meeting of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General in Perth 1998 to achieve national uniform defamation legislation.
- (2) In the absence of agreements by the State and Territory governments to pursue national uniform defamation legislation, has he received any legal advice relating to the extent to which the Commonwealth could unilaterally enact Commonwealth defamation legislation relying on the heads of power available to it in the Constitution.
- (3) What barriers exist to the enactment of Commonwealth defamation legislation.

*2298 **MR C. P. THOMPSON:** To ask the Attorney-General—

- (1) How many judgements by Justices of the Federal Court of Australia have been outstanding for a period of more than 6 months.
- (2) Is he able to say when these judgements will be delivered.

*2299 **DR THEOPHANOUS:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs—Has his Department renewed the contract of Australasian Correctional Management as the private contractor managing Australia's Immigration Reception Centres; if not, is his Department accepting tenders from other enterprises to take over this important responsibility.

*2300 **DR THEOPHANOUS:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs—

- (1) Further to his answer to question No. 2183 in which he stated that the TPV holder may be granted a permanent protection visa after the relevant period if they still need protection and meet the criteria, has he failed to make a commitment to those TPV holders that fulfil all relevant criteria that they will receive a permanent protection visa; if so, why.
- (2) Did he assure those at a public meeting in Melbourne on 22 November 2000 that these TPV holders would definitely be granted permanent protection.
- (3) If he is refusing to make such a commitment, how can TPV holders have any confidence about their future in Australia, and how can they make plans for their new life here.

*2301 **DR THEOPHANOUS:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs—

- (1) In light of the Migration Review Tribunal's lack of power to review decisions made at overseas embassies for refugee and humanitarian claimants, does he have the power of review.
- (2) If not, how can justice be guaranteed to any claimants who may receive an incorrect or unsatisfactory decision, especially when many such decisions are based on a subjective judgment by a single official.
- (3) Will he make a Regulation to provide him with a power of review.

*2302 **MR ANDREN:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services—

- (1) Did the Commonwealth Ombudsman's 1993-94 annual report state that the most complained about Child Support Agency (CSA) issue was CSA's failure to collect maintenance or recover arrears.
- (2) Given that in 1994, 97 500 child support payers had failed to meet their child support obligations and by June 1999 that had increased to 334 892 payers with outstanding child support liabilities, what steps is the Government taking to reverse this rapid increase.
- (3) Given the many cases where custodial parents are owed substantial child support, while the wealthy non-custodial parents hide their wealth in company structures, how can the Government ensure that non-custodial parents will be forced to pay their child support liabilities within a reasonable time.

*2303 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Prime Minister—Did he say that Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport would not be sold until the noise problems at the airport had been solved.

*2304 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) Did he, in his Federation Address 'Backing Australia's Ability' on 29 January 2001 announce that over the next five years, each year, an additional 2000 new university places will be created with priority given to Information Communications Technology (ICT), mathematics and science.
- (2) Does this mean that in the first year 2000 places will be created, and that in the second year these 2000 places continue, and 2000 new places are created, and that in the third year there are 6000 places, 8000 in the fourth year and 10 000 in the fifth year.
- (3) Will these places lapse after three years, so that in the fourth year the first 2000 places disappear, and in the fifth year after three year's tenure, the second tranche of 2000 places are gone, so that in the fifth year there are only 6000 new places.
- (4) In either case, does the announcement of 2000 new places each year over the next five years mean more places than the announcement that over that period, this will result in 21 000 equivalent full time student places at a cost of \$151 million.
- (5) Is his figure of 21 000 places based on an attrition rate expected because these new places will be taken up by students who cannot now gain entrance

to university courses, despite the low current entrance criteria for science admissions.

- (6) Has the Government rejected the recommendation of the Chief Scientist in *The Chance to Change*, August 2000, to create 500 HECS scholarships to attract the best students to science degrees, at a total cost for five cohorts of about \$40 million, in favour of a program to enrol weaker students at a cost of \$151 million.
- (7) Does the Government intend to micro-manage the admissions procedures of the autonomous universities to ensure that priority is given to ICT, mathematics and science; if so, does the Government intend to rely on the fact that these new places will be the last choice of aspiring university applicants.

*2305 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Has his attention been drawn to statements made in the *Australian* newspaper that Federal Cabinet has ruled out building a second airport in Western Sydney.
- (2) Does section 11 of the Airports Act state that the airport-lessee companies of Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport (KSA) and Sydney West Airport must be wholly-owned subsidiaries of the same holding company; if so, (a) what is the rationale behind this provision and (b) will the provision be repealed.
- (3) Does paragraph 14(5)(f) of the Airports Act state that an airport lease complies with the subsection if, in the case of Sydney West Airport, the lease provides for the development of the site as an airport or the use of the site as an airport, or both whether or not the lease also provides for other developments or other uses; if so, (a) what is the rationale behind this provision and (b) will the provision be repealed.
- (4) Will he make provisions in granting a lease for Sydney Airport that the lease provides for the development of the site for Sydney West Airport.
- (5) Will he recommend a site other than Badgery's Creek as the site for Sydney West Airport; if so, when; if not, why not.
- (6) Can an operator-lease for Sydney Airport be drafted without reference to provisions in that lease for the development of the site for Sydney West Airport.
- (7) For the purposes of section 16 of the Airports Act, who are (a) the airport-lessee companies and (b) the airport-management companies for (i) those airports listed in subsection 7(1) of the Act and (ii) any other airport in Australia.
- (8) Will he repeal or amend section 16 of the Act.
- (9) Does section 18 of the Act state that the Commonwealth must not grant an airport lease under section 13 of the Act, or section 22 of the Airports (Transitional) Act, for KSA or Sydney West Airport unless each of the airport-lessee companies is a subsidiary of the same company; if so, (a), when will tenders be advertised for the airport-lessee company for KSA and Sydney West Airport and (b) will the Commonwealth ultimately dispose of its shares in the airport-lessee companies and airport-management companies for the airports; if so, when; if not, why not.

- (10) Will he repeal or amend section 18 of the Act.
- (11) What would the financial impact be on the purchase price of KSA if there were no requirement for the operator of Sydney airport to build a second airport in Western Sydney.
- (12) In light of the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, why were alternative sites such as Darkes Forest and Wilton not included in the Environmental Impact Statement on Bankstown Airport.

*2306 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Is he able to say whether the introduction of high speed train services in Europe have led to European airline operators reducing or cutting regional airline services that operate on the same routes as the new train services.
- (2) Is he able to say whether the introduction of high speed trains in Australia would reduce the demand for flights into and out of Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport (KSA).
- (3) Is he able to say whether variants of the now cancelled high speed trains proposed between Sydney and Canberra run in France, Spain, England, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Switzerland and Italy and will soon be in operation in the United States and Korea.
- (4) Why has the Government withdrawn from the high speed train proposal.
- (5) Can he provide data showing that the building of a high speed train network would be more economically viable than encouraging the growth in air transport.
- (6) Can he provide data of the projected price of import fuel and import aircraft costs for the next ten and twenty years and provide comparative costs of railway equipment.
- (7) Was part of the Speedrail proposal a plan to extend the line to Melbourne and eventually to Brisbane.
- (8) If the Speedrail proposal had proceeded, would it have put 75% of Australians within 90 minutes travel time of a major city.
- (9) Would the projected number of jobs that would have been created during the construction of the Speedrail link have reached, or exceeded, 15 000.
- (10) Is travelling by train safer than travel by car or aircraft.
- (11) Is he aware of transport safety statistical comparisons between road, rail and aircraft; if so, what are the names of those studies.
- (12) Is he aware that researchers in the US have found that travelling by train is 6800 times safer than travelling by road and that similar figures also apply for a comparison between air and train travel.
- (13) What measures will be put in place to promote the construction of a Very High Speed Train service between Sydney and Melbourne.
- (14) Is it a fact that (a) railway equipment is largely locally manufactured and (b) most aircraft are imported at high cost.
- (15) Is he able to say whether Speedrail had forecast a net economic benefit from the project of \$5.3 billion measured in tax payments, new employment,

savings on highway construction and reductions in pollution, highway fatalities and greenhouse emissions.

*2307 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Will Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport (KSA) not be privatised until the noise pollution problems at the airport have been permanently resolved, consistent with the Government's "Putting People First" policy.
- (2) Is the Long Term Operating Plan (LTOP) for KSA still to be fully implemented.
- (3) Under the LTOP, what is the average percentage of aircraft movements to the north, west and east of the airport for the last three years, individually and in aggregate.
- (4) Is the Government in receipt of advice from Airservices Australia that the LTOP for KSA is unsafe or unworkable.
- (5) Do Sydney residents receive more aircraft noise now than before the LTOP was introduced.
- (6) Are Sydney residents more at risk of aircraft crashes since the LTOP was introduced.
- (7) Can the LTOP be fully implemented with the Government's proposed expansion of Sydney Airport and Bankstown Airport; if not, why not.

*2308 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—Is he aware of the increased health risks to local residents around Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport and Port Botany from long term exposure to toxic emissions associated with road transport travelling to and from the airport.

*2309 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) In terms of compliance with Australian aircraft noise standard AS 2021, has the Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport (KSA) aircraft noise insulation project fallen behind relative to the increase in aircraft noise impact.
- (2) Can he provide details of anticipated future aircraft noise and traffic congestion at KSA for 2010.
- (3) Is it a fact that the KSA noise insulation project was supposed to have by now insulated residences against 2010 levels of noise to the AS 2021 standard; if not, at what standard is noise insulation supposed to be afforded to Sydney residents.
- (4) Did the November 1995 Senate Select Committee on Aircraft Noise in Sydney recommend that a new authorised maximum capacity contour map for KSA be prepared to apply both to the acquisition and noise insulation scheme (p.264) and that the noise insulation scheme be extended to all residences within the 25 ANEF contour as included on the maximum capacity map (p265); if so, (a) has the new authorised maximum capacity contour map for KSA has been prepared and (b) will he provide (i) a copy of the map and accompanying working documents and (ii) details of how and when the noise insulation will be implemented.
- (5) Did the November 1995 Senate Select Committee on Aircraft Noise in Sydney recommend that noise monitoring at Australian airports should be independently supervised by the Commonwealth Environment Protection

Agency (p.274); if so, has the recommendation been, or will it be implemented; if not, why not.

- (6) How many residences in the Sydney metropolitan area are located within the Year 2000 25 ANEF contour.
- (7) How many residences in the Sydney metropolitan area have thus far been insulated within the noise insulation scheme.
- (8) Have all these residences been insulated in compliance with the Australian Standard for Aircraft Noise in Residences (AS 2021).
- (9) Will he guarantee that there will be no watering down of the existing AS 2021.
- (10) Will he never permit the entry into Australian airspace any of the American hush-kitted jets that the European Union is to ban from European airports in the near future; if not, why not.

*2310 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Can he provide air toxic emissions data and risk analysis covering specific known carcinogens and toxins, including but not restricted to (a) benzene, (b) 1-3 butadiene and (c) toluene generated by total airport operations at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport (KSA) and Bankstown Airport during 2000.
- (2) Is he able to say whether Sydney Airport Corporation Limited's (SACL) claim of insignificant health risks from exposure to emissions around Sydney airport during the Commission of Inquiry into the Precision Runway Monitoring (PRM) System north of KSA, excluded measurement of the health risk north of Sydney airport and did not assess risk from long term exposure to specific transport-emission related carcinogens such as benzene, 1-3 butadiene and toluene.
- (3) Is he able to say whether, according to the NSW Cancer Council, the highest occurrence area for lung cancer in the eastern half of the Sydney basin is concentrated around Sydney Airport and Port Botany.
- (4) Can he provide evidence in support of SACL's claim during the March 2000 PRM Inquiry that its two air pollution monitors recorded no significant change in air emissions since 1992.
- (5) Can he verify whether SACL's finding of insignificant risk on the basis of the monitoring data used in this assessment is applicable for inner western Sydney suburbs downwind of Sydney airport.
- (6) Can he provide air toxic emissions data and risk analysis covering specific known carcinogens and toxins, including (a) benzene, (b) 1-3 butadiene and (c) toluene generated by total airport operations at KSA and Bankstown Airport during 2010 to reflect the metropolitan area impacts of the publicised scenarios of (i) removing regional aircraft from KSA, (ii) increasing the numbers of jet operations at KSA and (iii) expanding Bankstown Airport.
- (7) Can he quantify what lung cancer risk in the Sydney metropolitan area is attributable to toxic transport emissions, in view of the reported 53% risk factor quoted by the US Environment Protection Agency for the Minneapolis St Paul metropolitan area, and also in view of the closed-basin

nature of the Sydney metropolitan area, and the relatively high level of benzene in Australian motor vehicle fuel by world standards.

*2311 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—Is he able to say what is the probability of an aircraft crashing over populated areas of Sydney.

*2312 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Is he aware of best practice in airport environmental management and sustainable airport development.
- (2) What constitutes best practice in airport environmental management.
- (3) What is the definition “environmental capacity” for Australian airports.
- (4) Can he quantify the environmental capacity of Sydney Airport.
- (5) In which year was, or will, the environmental capacity for Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport (KSA) be reached.
- (6) How will environmental capacity influence future KSA development decisions.
- (7) Where an airport cannot fully compensate residents in compliance with Australian standards, guidelines or regulations for noise, toxic air emissions, and other relevant Australian quality standards, can it be said to have exceeded its environmental capacity.
- (8) In view of Airports Council International’s recommendations regarding the achievement of long-term sustainable development for airports, can he quantify the maximum level of environmental impacts of Sydney Airport beyond which he will not allow further expansion.
- (9) Did Mr Tony Stuart, CEO, in Sydney Airport Corporation Limited’s November 1999 ‘Environment Strategy’ document. state that Sydney Airport’s mission is to be a world class airport for Sydney, NSW and Australia; if so, does the mission remain unchanged.
- (10) Will he give details, prior to approval of privatisation in accordance with the Coalition’s “Putting People First” policy, of the Government’s ‘total-airport’ environmental management strategy for KSA; if not, why not.

*2313 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Did Environment Australia find in its July 1999 Second Sydney Airport Environmental Assessment Report (pp. 5-4) that the 1985 site selection environmental impact statement ranked Wilton as second overall of the ten sites short listed and the favoured site outside the Sydney basin and that Wilton must rank well as an alternative site to Badgerys Creek; if so, can he provide technical reasons for his exclusion of Wilton and Darkes Forest from consideration as potential new airport sites for Sydney.
- (2) Will he recall from schools all copies of the Sydney Airport Corporation Limited’s document titled: ‘Sydney Airport Australia’s International Gateway teachers and students booklets—Human Society and Its Environment Curriculum support materials: Stage 3’, on the grounds that it contains biased, misleading and incomplete information.

*2314 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Has he received any contributions or gifts from vested corporate interests in Sydney Airport Corporation and Bankstown Airport Corporation and their related ground transport infrastructure; if so, what are the details.
- (2) Is he able to say whether his family, other Ministers or his political party have received contributions or gifts from vested corporate interests in Sydney Airport Corporation and Bankstown Airport Corporation and their related ground transport infrastructure; if so, what are the details.

*2315 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) In respect to the planned expansion of Bankstown Airport, will the movements of larger jets interfere with the air space management of Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport (KSA); if so, will KSA aircraft safety be further compromised.
- (2) In the event that the environmental impact statement on the Bankstown Airport proposal shows it is not feasible to implement the Federal Cabinet's proposal, will the Government revisit the site selection process for a major second Sydney airport.

*2316 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Do many airports now ban aircraft that do not comply with noise levels as described in Chapter 3 of Annex 16, Volume I of the Convention on International Civil Aviation.
- (2) Do the airports include (a) Montreal (Dorval) and Toronto (Lester B Pearson) in international airports Canada, (b) Ruzyně (Prague) Airport in the Czech Republic, (c) Copenhagen Airport Roskilde in Denmark, (d) Lappeenranta Airport in Finland, (e) Charles de Gaulle Airport in France, (f) Dresden, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Hannover-Langenhagen, Cologne-Bonn, Munich, Paderborn-Lippstadt, Schönefeld, Tegel and Tempelhof airports in Germany, (g) Alghero Airport (Milan) in Italy, (h) Luxembourg International Airport in Luxembourg, (i) Schiphol Airport in The Netherlands, (j) Oslo Gardermoen Airport in Norway, (k) Biggin Hill, Gatwick, Heathrow, Kent, London City, Southampton and Stanstead airports in the UK and (l) John Wayne-Orange County, Santa Monica, Aspen-Pitkin County/Sardy Field, Ronald Reagan National and Jackson Hole airports in the USA.
- (3) Are Chapter 3 aircraft 50% quieter than the aircraft presently allowed in Sydney Airport.
- (4) Will Sydney be added to the list of countries banning aircraft that do not comply with noise levels as described in Chapter 3 of Annex 16, Volume I of the Convention on International Civil Aviation; if so, when; if not, why not
- (5) Is he able to say whether the World Health Organization has suggested a standard guideline value for average outdoor noise levels of 55 dB(A) be applied during normal daytime in order to prevent significant interference with the normal activities of local communities; if so, how many people at any time in the Sydney area are likely to be affected by aircraft noise levels that exceed this level.

- (6) Is he able to say whether the OECD, in 1986, reported thresholds for noise nuisance as being (in day-time LAeq) (a) noise exposure at 55-60 dB(A) noise creates annoyance, (b) noise exposure at 60-65 dB(A) annoyance increases considerably and (c) noise exposure above 65 dB(A) constrained behaviour patterns, symptomatic of serious damage caused by noise.
- (7) How many people at any one time in the Sydney area are likely to be affected by aircraft noise levels that exceed these levels.

*2317 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—Are only Australian pilots trained in the Precision Runway Monitoring (PRM) System operating at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport; if so, why are non-Australian Pilots not trained in PRM.

*2318 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Did the former Minister for Transport and Regional Development issue a Media Statement T3/98 on 14 January 1998 titled Noise Sharing Improvements for Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport (KSA).
- (2) Does paragraph 4 of that media statement speak of an agreement reached between the Minister and Airservices Australia concerning noise-sharing improvements at KSA.
- (3) What was the nature of the agreement made between Airservices Australia and the then Minister.
- (4) Was the agreement in writing; if so, were any of the documents that formed the agreement generally made available to the public at the time of the making of the agreement.
- (5) Is he able to say what is the source of the revised procedures as stated against the four descriptors contained in paragraph 4 of the then Minister's Media Statement T3/98.
- (6) Will he provide copies of all of the documents that collectively make up the agreement; if not, why not.
- (7) Will he provide a copy of any internal correspondence, including background notes, between his Department and Airservices Australia regarding this agreement.
- (8) What are the current distribution arrangements for Airservices Australia background notes and if they are different today, what were the distribution arrangements for Airservices Australia background notes in 1998.
- (9) For the twelve months to January 2001 on weekdays, what was the percentage of time that noise-sharing modes were used for air traffic at KSA for the full hour between 0600Hr and 0700Hr inclusive.
- (10) What percentage of time that noise-sharing modes for air traffic at KSA was not possible due to weather impacts.
- (11) What other factors affected the non-use of noise-sharing modes during this period.
- (12) For the twelve months to January 2001 on weekdays, what was the percentage of time that noise-sharing modes were used for air traffic at KSA at 1100Hr.

- (13) What percentage of time that noise-sharing modes for air traffic at KSA was not possible due to weather impacts between 1100Hr and 1500Hr inclusive.
 - (14) What other factors affected the non-use of noise-sharing modes during this period.
 - (15) For the last twelve months on the weekdays "weather permitting", has the use of a noise-sharing mode continued to and beyond 1500 hours about 25% of the time.
 - (16) For the twelve months to January 2001 on weekdays, what was the percentage of time that noise-sharing modes were used for air traffic at KSA from 2000Hr till curfew.
 - (17) What percentage of time that noise-sharing modes for air traffic at KSA was not possible due to weather impacts during this period.
 - (18) What other factors affected the non-use of noise-sharing modes during this period.
 - (19) Are callers to the Noise Inquiry unit in relation to the operations of air traffic at KSA, when calling about the lack of the agreed change, frequently advised the reason for the failure to change to a noise-sharing mode is 'due traffic'; if so, what are the top ten reasons for the failure to change to the noise-sharing modes at the agreed times.
 - (20) Is the repeated failure of Airservices Australia to achieve the agreed change to noise-sharing modes and the constant use of the excuse 'due traffic' at odds with the statement made in Media Statement T3/98 that, weather permitting, noise sharing modes based on the use of all three runways will be used irrespective of forecast traffic demand.
- *2319 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—
- (1) Is the Drummoyne Post Office to close; if so, when.
 - (2) Is the Drummoyne Post Office to be amalgamated with another Post Office or another business.
 - (3) Will any amalgamation of the Drummoyne Post Office result in any diminution of postal or other services, particularly to constituents living in Drummoyne; if so, which services will be affected.
- *2320 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Finance and Administration—
- (1) Will he outline the Government's process to be followed concerning the proposed sale of Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport (KSA).
 - (2) By what date would the Government prefer KSA to be sold.
 - (3) Is he aware of the corporate structure of Westralia Airports Corporation Pty Limited.
 - (4) Is it permissible for those persons who hold an equity interest in (a) Westralia Airports Corporation Pty Limited, (b) Airstralia Development Group, (c) Airport Group International Holdings or (d) any other airport-lessee and airport-management company in Australia to hold equity interest in another airport-lessee or airport-management company in Australia.
 - (5) Subject to the provisions contained in the Airports Act, is it possible for a person holding an equity interest in an airport-lessee or airport-management

company to also hold an equity interest in another airport-lessee or airport-management company.

- (6) Is an airport-lessee or airport-management company eligible to sell shares in those companies on the Australian Stock Exchange.

*2321 **MR MURPHY:** To ask the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Under what circumstances and with what legal authority is Centrelink able to take action to recover overpayments from minors.
- (2) With regard to recovery action for overpaid youth allowances, is it Centrelink's practice to (a) seek repayments from minors who have neither savings nor current incomes and (b) seek repayments directly from minors, even in cases where a parent elected to receive the allowance on behalf of the minor; if so, on what grounds is Centrelink able to take this action.
- (3) Will he direct Centrelink to ensure that unemployed minors who are the subject of recovery action for overpaid allowances (a) are given high priority for job placement or job training and (b) have their repayments deferred until they are employed or in receipt of jobsearch or another appropriate allowance; if not, why not.
- (4) Will he direct Centrelink to ensure that, when benefits are granted, beneficiaries are notified in writing of the actions, including possible court proceedings, that may be taken in order to recover overpayments.

*2322 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts—

- (1) Has his attention been drawn to the December 2000 issue of *Major Mail Users*, the mail industry magazine.
- (2) Did Australia Post go to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to try to prevent a home delivery mail service being privately established on Lord Howe Island.
- (3) Is it a fact that Australia Post does not provide a home delivery service for mail or parcels on Lord Howe Island, meaning the island's residents have to collect their mail from the post office.
- (4) Is the purpose of Australia Post's letter delivery monopoly and associated community service obligation to endeavour to ensure that a home delivery service is provided to as many Australian homes as possible.
- (5) If so, what is the point of Australia Post seeking to enforce its monopoly power to provide a service which it is itself unwilling or unable to provide.

*2323 **MR PRICE:** To ask the Minister for Transport and Regional Services—

- (1) Since the election of the Howard government in 1996, what sum has been spent each year on the National Highway and for what projects.
- (2) For those projects, what are the (a) anticipated completion dates, (b) State contributions, (c) Federal contributions and (d) total project cost.
- (3) What are the Federal electorates which have all, or part of, the projects in them and what is the party affiliation of the Member representing that electorate.
- (4) Which projects have attracted a toll.

*2324 **MR PRICE:** To ask the Minister for Defence—

- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 557 (*Hansard*, 12 May 1999, page 5321) in which it is stated the only other claims of inappropriate disciplinary action involve another Army unit at Holsworthy, was the unit referred to 3RAR; if so, what prevented the unit from being named in the answer.
- (2) When was the first time that the inappropriate disciplinary action was brought to the attention of the relevant Minister.
- (3) Who was that Minister.
- (4) Was the Minister or his or her staff briefed on the matter by either the ADF or the Department of Defence; if so, on what dates and by whom.
- (5) What if any ministerial directions were issued by the Minister, on what date and to what effect.
- (6) When was he or his ministerial staff first briefed on the 3RAR Affair and by whom.
- (7) What ministerial directions were issued, when and to what effect.
- (3) On what subsequent occasions was he or his staff briefed on the 3RAR Affair.
- (8) What if any ministerial directions were issued, when and to what effect.
- (9) Was Minister Moore or his staff briefed on the 3RAR Affair; if so, when and by whom.
- (10) Did Minister Moore or his staff issue or provide any directions; if so when and to what effect.

*2325 **MR PRICE:** To ask the Minister for Defence—

- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 557 (*Hansard*, 12 May 1999, page 5321), in which it is stated that the military police were investigating claims made against another unit at Holsworthy since September 1998, were the military police given terms of reference; if so, (a) by whom and (b) what were they.
- (2) Were the military police investigating individual incidences at 3RAR; if so, how many.
- (3) What were the ranks of the (a) perpetrators and (b) victims.
- (4) Were all the available reports and evidence provided to the military police; if so, what was provided; if not, what was withheld and why.
- (5) At any point in its inquiry, did the military police form the view that there may have been a culture of violence.
- (6) At any stage of its inquiry did the military police put the view to 3RAR Command that there was a culture of violence in 3RAR, if so when and to what effect.
- (7) Was the military police investigation truncated in any way; if so, how and on whose authority.

*2326 **MR PRICE:** To ask the Minister for Defence—

- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 557 (*Hansard*, 12 May 1999, page 5321), was the military police investigation into the majority of the allegations completed as stated by the end of May 1999; if not, why not.

- (2) Did the former Minister or his staff direct that the investigation should be wrapped up; if not, who ordered the investigation to be wrapped up, when all allegations had not been investigated.
- (3) What were the allegations that were either not investigated or subject to continuing investigation.
- (4) Were any of the minority allegations investigated by the military police; if not, by whom were they investigated.
- (5) When were the minority investigations concluded and with what outcome.

*2327 **MR PRICE:** To ask the Minister for Defence—

- (1) When was HMAS *Westralia* commissioned.
- (2) At the time of commissioning, (a) did HMAS *Westralia* meet the relevant civilian Occupational, Health and Safety requirements for oil tankers; if not, why not and in what way was it deficient, (b) what was provided for the sailors to escape in the event of an emergency and (c) would the sailors have survived in the case of fire surrounding the ship.
- (3) At the time of the fire on board HMAS *Westralia*, (a) did HMAS *Westralia* meet the relevant civilian Occupational, Health and Safety requirements for oil tankers; if not, why not and in what way was it deficient, (b) what was provided for the sailors to escape in the event of an emergency and (c) would the sailors have survived in the case of fire surrounding the ship.
- (4) If changes were made between the commissioning and the fire, who authorised them and when.
- (5) How are Navy Occupational Health and Safety Standards determined and how are they reviewed.

*2328 **MR PRICE:** To ask the Minister for Defence—

- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 1781 (*Hansard*, 10 October 2000, page 21204) and the Trotter Report, when was the Trotter Report finalised and accepted.
- (2) What were the deficiencies in administration and training identified by the report.
- (3) What were the recommendations of the report.
- (4) Were any recommendations rejected; if so, which recommendations and why.
- (5) How are the recommendations being implemented and in what time frame.

*2329 **MR PRICE:** To ask the Minister for Defence—

- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 1782 (*Hansard*, 12 October 2000, page 21551), have any of the families written to the Chief of Navy concerning the awarding of bravery medals and awards arising from the *Westralia* tragedy; if so, how many.
- (2) Who were awarded bravery medals and awards for the *Westralia* tragedy and what was the citation.
- (3) Did Navy make a submission for an award or medal associated with the *Westralia* tragedy that was not granted.

*2330 **MR PRICE:** To ask the Minister for Defence—

- (1) Further to the release of the Defence White Paper, are the Army Reserves to be re tasked; if so, in what way.
- (2) Was an Army Reserve Conference held in Canberra in 2000; if so, what were the outcomes.
- (3) Under what circumstances will reservists be utilised to fill slots in the Regular Army (so called “Slot Theory”).
- (4) Has any commitment been made to utilise the Army Reserve in formed units; if so, when, by whom and to what degree.
- (5) Has any recent study or project been undertaken to better utilise the Army Reserve; if so, (a) when and when was it completed and (b) is it publically available.
- (6) Has there been any change to the readiness requirements of the Army Reserve; if so, what change.
- (7) Are there increased training requirements of the Army Reserve; if so, what.

*2331 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—

- (1) Is he able to say which states have (a) signed the 1995 Unidroit Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, (b) ratified the Convention or (c) acceded to the Convention since his answer to question No. 1786 (*Hansard*, 3 October 2000, page 20676).
- (2) Is he able to say what progress has been made in the UK since his answer to question No. 1786 on the recommendation that the British Government should sign the Convention and facilitate early ratification of it.
- (3) On what dates have the relevant Departments and agencies met to consider accession by Australia since his answer to question No. 2436 (*Hansard*, 2 March 1998, page 147).
- (4) On what dates have there been consultations with State and Territory governments regarding accession since his answer to question No. 2436.

*2332 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources—

- (1) What financial contribution is the Government making to the establishment of the new Holden V6 engine plant in Melbourne from (a) the Automotive Competitiveness and Investment Scheme (ACIS), (b) research and development funding, (c) import duty concessions and (d) other budget programs.
- (2) Were these commitments determined in consultation with the Victorian Government; if so, what are the details of the State financial contribution to the project.
- (3) What is the total ACIS funding for which Holden is expected to be eligible over the next five years.
- (4) Is public funding for the new engine plant the equivalent of \$295,000 per job created, as reported in the media.
- (5) Given the extent of the public funding contribution, will the Government (a) withdraw its contribution and directly grant each of the engine plant workers

\$295,000 or (b) buy-out the entire plant and bring it into full public ownership and control.

*2333 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs—

- (1) Did Australia on 30 October 1989 accept the Unesco 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.
- (2) Has he noted the recommendations of the Illicit Trade Advisory Panel in a report to the British Arts Minister on 18 December 2000 that the UK should accede to the Convention.
- (3) What progress has been made since the answer to question No. 1674 (*Hansard*, 31 August 2000, page 19963) in returning Indigenous human remains from the UK to Australian Indigenous communities.

*2334 **MR LATHAM:** To ask the Minister for Veterans' Affairs—

- (1) Further to the answer to question No. 1160 (*Hansard*, 28 June 2000, page 18561), where a person claims a disability pension or service pension from his Department (DVA), does the claim form ask the claimant to indicate dates of service in Australia's armed services; if so, is this information then recorded for each claimant on the DVA claim, rejection or payment record.
- (2) If so, are dates of service and the data of service record used to present data in Tables 10 to 14 in the regularly issued DVA publication, *DVA Pensioner Summary*.
- (3) If so, why is it not possible to also present information about claims, grants and rejections for disability pensioners by conflict.
- (4) Where a person lodges an appeal with the Veterans' Review Board (VRB) in respect of a decision made by the DVA about a disability pension, does the VRB system that monitors the details of each appellant record for each claimant the dates of service in Australia's armed services; if so, why is it not possible to present the number of veterans' disability pension appeals and the results of such appeals by conflict.

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:

Needs of Urban Dwelling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

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

Current inquiries:

Adequacy of radio services in regional Australia.

Art Indemnity Australia.

Progress in rail reform.

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

Current inquiries:

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission annual report 1998-99.

International financial market effects on government policy.

Reserve Bank of Australia annual report 1999-2000.

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

Current inquiry:

Education of boys.

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

Current inquiries:

Catchment management.

Public good conservation - the impact of conservation measures imposed on landholders.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS: Mr Wakelin (*Chair*), Mr K. J. Andrews, Mr Edwards, Ms Ellis, Mrs Gash Ms Hall, Mr Lawler, Mr Quick, Mr Schultz, Dr Washer. (Mr Jenkins and Mr Nugent to serve as supplementary members for the purpose of the inquiry into indigenous health and Ms J. I. Bishop and Mrs Irwin to serve as supplementary members for the purpose of the inquiry into drugs.)

Current inquiry:

Social and economic costs of substance abuse.

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

INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES: Mr Prosser (*Chair*), Mr Hatton, Mr Lloyd, Mr I. E. Macfarlane, Mr Morris, Mr Nairn, Ms Roxon, Mr C. P. Thompson, Dr Washer, Mr Zahra.

Current inquiry:

Adding value to Australian raw materials.

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

Current inquiry:

Scientific, ethical and regulatory aspects of human cloning.

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: Fran Bailey (*Chair*), Mr Adams, Mr Andren, Mr Horne, Mr Katter, Mr Lawler, Mr I. E. Macfarlane, Mr McLeay, Mr Nairn, Mr Secker, Mr Sidebottom, Mr C. P. Thompson. (Mr Griffin and Dr Washer to serve as supplementary members for the purpose of the inquiry into high technology industries in regional Australia based on bioprospecting.)

Current inquiry:

Development of high technology industries in regional Australia based on bioprospecting.

PRIVILEGES: Mr Somlyay (*Chair*), Mr K. J. Andrews, Mr Danby, Mr Jull, Mr McClelland (nominee of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition), Mr McLeay, Mrs May, Mr Neville, Mr Sawford, Mr Sercombe, Dr Southcott (nominee of the Leader of the House). (Ms J. I. Bishop to serve as nominee of the Leader of the House for the purpose of the inquiry into alleged unauthorised disclosure of *in camera* evidence.)

Current inquiries:

Alleged intimidation or interference against witness: Corporal Craig Smith.

Alleged unauthorised disclosure of *in camera* evidence.

Intimidation of committee witness: Mr Peter Osborne.

PROCEDURE: Mr Nairn (*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, Ms 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 ORGANISATION: Mr Jull (*Presiding Member*), Mr Forrest, Mr McArthur, Mr McLeay, Senator Calvert, Senator S. Macdonald, 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.

Current inquiry:

Provisions of the Corporate Code of Conduct Bill 2000 (*To report by 31 March 2001*).

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

Current inquiries:

Law enforcement implications of new technology.

National Crime Authority Legislation Amendment Bill 2000. (*To report by 1 March 2001*)

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 McLucas, Senator Woodley.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT: Mr Charles (*Chair*), Mr K. J. Andrews, Mr Cox, Mr Georgiou, Ms Gillard, Mr Lindsay, Mr St Clair, Mr Somlyay, Mr Tanner, Mr K. J. Thomson, Senator Coonan, Senator Crowley, Senator Gibson, Senator Hogg, Senator Murray, Senator Watson.

Current inquiries:

Auditor-General Act 1997.

Auditor-General's Reports.

Auditor-General's audit report No. 9, 2000-2001, First Quarter.

Coastwatch.

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

Current inquiries:

Delamere Range and RAAF Base Tindal, NT—Development of Range Support Facilities.

Sydney—Remediation of Defence land at Neutral Bay

Joint Standing

ELECTORAL MATTERS (*Formed 7 December 1998*): Mr L. D. T. Ferguson, Mr McClelland, Mr Pyne, Mr St Clair, Mr Somlyay, Senator Bartlett, Senator Faulkner, Senator Ferris, Senator Mason, Senator Murray.

Current inquiries:

Electoral funding and disclosure.

Integrity of the Electoral roll.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE (*Formed 7 December 1998*): Senator Ferguson (*Chair*), Fran Bailey, Mr Baird, Mr Brereton, Mrs Crosio, Mr L. D. T. Ferguson, Mr Hawker, Mr Hollis, Mr Jull, Mrs D. M. Kelly, Mr Lieberman, Dr Martin, Mrs Moylan, Mr Nugent, Mr O'Keefe, Mr Price, Mr Prosser, Mr Pyne, Mr Snowdon, Dr Southcott, Mr A. P. Thomson, Senator Bourne, Senator Calvert, Senator Chapman, Senator Cook, Senator Harradine, Senator Hutchins, Senator S. Macdonald, Senator McKiernan, Senator O'Brien, Senator Payne, Senator Schacht.

Current inquiries:

Australia's relations with the Middle East.

Australia's relations with the United Nations.

Review of the Department of Defence Annual Report 1998-99.

Use of foreign aid to advance human rights in developing nations.

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

Current inquiry:

Review of State-specific migration mechanisms.

NATIONAL CAPITAL AND EXTERNAL TERRITORIES (*Formed 7 December 1998*): Senator Lightfoot (*Chair*), Mr Cameron, Ms Ellis, Mr Nehl, Mr Neville, Mr Snowdon, Mr Somlyay, Senator Crossin, Senator Greig, Senator Lundy, Senator Watson, Senator West.

Current inquiries:

Provision of health services on Norfolk Island.

Sale of the Christmas Island resort.

TREATIES (*Formed 7 December 1998*): Mr A. P. Thomson (*Chair*), Mr Adams, Mr Baird, Mr Bartlett, Mr Byrne, Mrs Elson, Mr Hardgrave, Mrs D. M. Kelly, Mr Wilkie, Senator Bartlett, Senator Coonan, Senator Cooney, Senator Ludwig, Senator Mason, Senator Schacht, Senator Tchen.

Current inquiries:

Australia's Extradition Law, Policy and Practice.

Australia's relationship with the World Trade Organisation.

Kyoto Protocol.

Statute for the International Criminal Court.

Treaties tabled on 10 October.

Joint Select

REPUBLIC REFERENDUM (*Formed 31 May 1999*): Mr Adams, Mr Baird, Ms J. I. Bishop, Mr Charles, Mr Causley, Mr Danby, Ms Hall, Mr Hawker, Mr McClelland, Mr Price, Mr Pyne, Ms Roxon, Senator Abetz, Senator Bolkus, Senator Boswell, Senator Payne, Senator Schacht, Senator Stott Despoja. (*Report brought up 9 August 1999; Committee dissolved.*)

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. (*Report brought up 30 August 1999; Committee dissolved.*)

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: Mr M. J. Ferguson (*elected 12 August 1999, for a period of 3 years*).

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