

2002-04

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

**JOURNALS OF THE SENATE**

No. 135

THURSDAY, 11 MARCH 2004

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**1 MEETING OF SENATE**

The Senate met at 9.30 am. The President (Senator the Honourable Paul Calvert) took the chair and read prayers.

**2 NOTICE**

Senator Stott Despoja: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

- (i) the Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA) was formed in 1965 and continues to play a significant role as a representative and regulatory body for non-government organisations in Australia,
- (ii) ACFOA provides representation, advocacy and a forum for cooperation for some 80 member agencies, and
- (iii) on 10 March 2004, ACFOA will change its name to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID);

(b) further notes that:

- (i) the United Nations (UN) has warned that the international community is falling short of achieving the goals set by world leaders at the Millennium Development Summit in 2000 (the Millennium Development Goals),
- (ii) Australia's aid budget currently remains at 0.25 per cent of gross national income, which is less than half the level of contribution advocated by the UN,
- (iii) ACFID's submission to the 2004-05 Budget calls on the Government to explicitly adopt the Millennium Development Goals as benchmarks for ensuring the aid program is directly focussed on the sustainable reduction of poverty, and in that context to provide for new initiatives focussed on basic social services for poverty reduction, and
- (iv) ACFID also calls on the Government to implement fair trade, debt relief and good governance policies, which underpin the poverty reduction objective of Australia's aid program; and

(c) calls on the Government to explicitly adopt the Millennium Development Goals as the benchmark for ensuring that Australia's aid program is focussed on effective aid delivery. (*general business notice of motion no. 805*)

**3 ORDER OF BUSINESS—REARRANGEMENT**

The Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads (Senator Ian Campbell) moved—That the following government business orders of the day be considered from 12.45 pm till not later than 2 pm today:

Australian Sports Drug Agency Amendment Bill 2004.

Customs Legislation Amendment (Application of International Trade Modernisation and Other Measures) Bill 2003 and a related bill.

No. 6 National Measurement Amendment Bill 2003.

Question put and passed.

Senator Ian Campbell moved—That the order of general business for consideration today be as follows:

- (a) general business order of the day no. 22 (Workplace Relations Amendment (Paid Maternity Leave) Bill 2002); and

- (b) consideration of government documents.

Question put and passed.

#### 4 **POSTPONEMENTS**

Items of business were postponed as follows:

Business of the Senate notice of motion no. 4 standing in the name of Senator Forshaw for today, relating to the reference of matters to the Community Affairs References Committee, postponed till 22 March 2004.

#### 5 **EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION REFERENCES COMMITTEE—REFERENCES**

The Chair of the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee (Senator George Campbell), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved business of the Senate notice of motion no. 1—That the following matter be referred to the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee for inquiry and report by 25 November 2004:

The progress and future direction of life-long learning and, in particular:

- (a) policies and strategies aimed at addressing the life-long learning needs of an ageing population;
- (b) the ways in which technological developments, particularly the Internet, have affected the nature and delivery of life-long learning since 1997;
- (c) the adequacy of any structural and policy changes at Commonwealth and state or territory level which have been made in response to these technological developments;
- (d) technological barriers to participation in life-long learning and adult and community education, and the ways and means by which these might be overcome;
- (e) the extent to which the training, professional development and role of adult educators has kept pace with or been influenced by technological and on-line developments since 1997; and
- (f) re-training strategies as an element in life-long learning, especially for those living in rural and regional areas.

Question put and passed.

Senator George Campbell, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved business of the Senate notice of motion no. 2—That the following matter be referred to the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee for inquiry and report by 25 November 2004:

Impediments to Indigenous employment and measures to improve vocational training and employment outcomes for Indigenous people, and, in particular:

- (a) the effect of the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme on the education and long-term employment outcomes of Indigenous people in rural, remote and urban areas;
- (b) the appropriateness of the current framework for the funding and delivery of vocational education and training to meet the requirements of Indigenous communities and to prepare Indigenous people for employment, especially in rural and remote settings;

- (c) the effectiveness of competency-based training models to deliver an appropriate level or mix of skills necessary for employment of Indigenous people, including the achievement of the necessary standards of literacy and numeracy;
- (d) the effectiveness of Commonwealth, state and territory-based initiatives to engage more Indigenous people in training and to encourage higher level skill acquisition in skilled trades and professions, including health and teaching; and
- (e) models for engaging industry and Indigenous communities in partnerships to develop long-term employment opportunities for Indigenous people—in infrastructure development through to the arts—and the limitations and opportunities these confer.

Question put and passed.

Senator George Campbell, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved business of the Senate notice of motion no. 3—That the following matter be referred to the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee for inquiry and report by 25 November 2004:

The living costs of students enrolled in full-time and part-time courses and, in particular:

- (a) current measures for student income support, including Youth Allowance, Austudy and Abstudy, with reference to:
  - (i) the adequacy of these payments,
  - (ii) the age of independence,
  - (iii) the parental income test threshold, and
  - (iv) the ineligibility of Austudy recipients for rent assistance;
- (b) the effect of these income support measures on students and their families, with reference to:
  - (i) the increasing costs of higher education,
  - (ii) students being forced to work longer hours to support themselves, and
  - (iii) the closure of the Student Financial Supplement Scheme;
- (c) the importance of adequate income support measures in achieving equitable access to education, with reference to:
  - (i) students from disadvantaged backgrounds, and
  - (ii) improving access to education; and
- (d) alternative student income support measures.

Question put and passed.

#### **6 COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—EXTENSION OF TIME TO REPORT**

The Chair of the Community Affairs Legislation Committee (Senator Knowles), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 802—That the time for the presentation of the report of the Community Affairs Legislation Committee on the Truth in Food Labelling Bill 2003 be extended to 1 April 2004.

Question put and passed.

## 7 **RESALE ROYALTY BILL 2004**

Senator Lundy, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 804—That the following bill be introduced:

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Copyright Act 1968* to introduce a Resale Royalty Scheme for the visual arts, and for related purposes.

Question put and passed.

Senator Lundy presented the bill and moved—That this bill may proceed without formalities and be now read a first time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

Senator Lundy moved—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator Lundy in continuation.

## 8 **PUBLICATIONS—STANDING COMMITTEE—15TH REPORT**

The Chair of the Standing Committee on Publications (Senator Colbeck) tabled the following report:

### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

#### 15TH REPORT

The Publications Committee reports that it has met in conference with the Publications Committee of the House of Representatives.

The Committee, having considered documents presented to the Parliament since 19 February 2004, recommends that the following be printed:

Australian Crime Commission—Report for 2002-03, including the final report of the National Crime Authority [1 July to 31 December 2002].

Commonwealth Grants Commission—State revenue sharing relativities—2004 review.

Department of Finance and Administration—Report for 2002-03—Corrigenda.  
Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation—Report for 2002-03—Errata.

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner—Reports for 2003—

Native title.

Social justice.

*Native Title Act 1993*—Native title representative bodies—Reports for 2002-03—

Mirimbiak Nations Aboriginal Corporation.

Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation.

Private Health Insurance Administration Council—Report for 2002-03 on the operations of the registered health benefits organisations—Errata.

*Telecommunications (Interception) Act 1979*—Report for 2002-03 pursuant to Division 2 of Part IX of the Act.

Senator Richard Colbeck

Chairman

11 March 2004.

Senator Colbeck moved—That the report be adopted.

Question put and passed.

**9 ASIO, ASIS AND DSD—JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE—REPORT—  
INTELLIGENCE SERVICES AMENDMENT BILL 2003**

Senator Sandy Macdonald, on behalf of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on ASIO, ASIS and DSD, tabled the following report:

ASIO, ASIS and DSD—Joint Statutory Committee—Review of the Intelligence Services Amendment Bill 2003—Report, dated February 2004.

Senator Sandy Macdonald moved—That the Senate take note of the report.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

**10 AUSTRALIAN SPORTS DRUG AGENCY AMENDMENT BILL 2004  
CUSTOMS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
MODERNISATION AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2003  
IMPORT PROCESSING CHARGES (AMENDMENT AND REPEAL) AMENDMENT  
BILL 2003**

Messages from the House of Representatives were reported transmitting for the concurrence of the Senate the following bills:

Message no. 534, dated 10 March 2004—A Bill for an Act to amend the *Australian Sports Drug Agency Act 1990*, and for related purposes.

Message no. 533, dated 10 March 2004—A Bill for an Act to provide for certain application and transitional matters relating to international trade modernisation, to amend customs legislation, and for other purposes.

Message no. 531, dated 10 March 2004—A Bill for an Act to amend the *Import Processing Charges (Amendment and Repeal) Act 2002*, and for related purposes.

The Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads (Senator Ian Campbell) moved—That these bills may proceed without formalities, may be taken together and be now read a first time.

Question put and passed.

Bills read a first time.

Senator Ian Campbell moved—That these bills be now read a second time.

On the motion of Senator Mackay the debate was adjourned.

On the motion of Senator Ian Campbell the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for a later hour.

*Consideration of legislation:* Senator Ian Campbell moved that the Australian Sports Drug Agency Amendment Bill 2004 be listed on the *Notice Paper* as a separate order of the day.

Question put and passed.

**11 TELECOMMUNICATIONS (INTERCEPTION) AMENDMENT BILL 2004**

A message from the House of Representatives was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the Senate the following bill:

Message no. 532, dated 10 March 2004—A Bill for an Act to amend the *Telecommunications (Interception) Act 1979*, and for other purposes.

The Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads (Senator Ian Campbell) moved—That this bill may proceed without formalities and be now read a first time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

Senator Ian Campbell moved—That this bill be now read a second time.

*Consideration of legislation:* Pursuant to order, the debate was adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the first day in the next period of sittings.

**12 RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—  
REPORT—PROPOSED IMPORTATION OF FRESH APPLE FRUIT FROM NEW ZEALAND**

Pursuant to order, Senator Ferris, at the request of the Chair of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee (Senator Heffernan), tabled the following report:

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—Proposed importation of fresh apple fruit from New Zealand—Final report, dated March 2004.

Report ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator Ferris.

**13 COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REFERENCES COMMITTEE—REPORT—POVERTY AND  
FINANCIAL HARDSHIP**

Pursuant to order, the Chair of the Community Affairs References Committee (Senator Hutchins) tabled the following report and documents:

Community Affairs References Committee—Poverty and financial hardship—A hand up not a hand out: Renewing the fight against poverty—Report, dated March 2004, *Hansard* record of proceedings, additional information and submissions [259].

Report ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator Hutchins.

Senator Hutchins, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the report.

Debate ensued.

On the motion of Senator Greig the debate was adjourned till the next day of sitting.

**14 HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (MEDICARE) BILL 2003**

Order of the day read for the further consideration of the bill in committee of the whole.

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*In the committee*

Consideration resumed of the bill.

Senator Lees, also on behalf of Senators Harradine, Harris and Murphy, moved the following requests for amendments together by leave:

That the House of Representatives be requested to make the following amendments:

Schedule 1, item 2, page 3 (line 14), omit “\$500”, substitute “\$300”.

Schedule 1, item 3, page 3 (line 18), omit “\$1,000”, substitute “\$700”.

Schedule 1, item 5, page 4 (line 7), omit “\$500”, substitute “\$300”.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the requests be agreed to—put.



The committee divided—

AYES, 33

Senators—

Abetz	Ferris (Teller)	Macdonald, Ian	Scullion
Barnett	Harradine	Macdonald, Sandy	Tchen
Boswell	Harris	Mason	Tierney
Brandis	Humphries	McGauran	Troeth
Campbell, Ian	Johnston	Minchin	Vanstone
Chapman	Kemp	Murphy	Watson
Colbeck	Knowles	Patterson	
Eggleston	Lees	Payne	
Ferguson	Lightfoot	Santoro	

NOES, 32

Senators—

Allison	Collins	Hogg	Nettle
Bartlett	Conroy	Hutchins	Ray
Bishop	Cook	Kirk	Ridgeway
Bolkus	Crossin (Teller)	Ludwig	Sherry
Brown	Evans	Lundy	Stephens
Campbell, George	Faulkner	Marshall	Stott Despoja
Carr	Forshaw	McLucas	Webber
Cherry	Greig	Murray	Wong

Question agreed to.

Senator Allison moved the following amendment:

Page 2 (after line 2), after clause 3, add:

**4 Review of the operation of Act**

- (1) The Minister must initiate, by the third anniversary of the day on which this Act commences, a review of the operation, effectiveness and implications of this Act.
- (2) In selecting a person to conduct the review required by this section, the Minister must seek and select a person from nominations received from independent academic institutions.
- (3) The Minister must cause to be tabled in both Houses of the Parliament a copy of the report of the review within 15 sitting days of receiving the report.

Debate ensued.

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*Document:* Senator Murphy, by leave, tabled the following document:

Health Legislation Amendment (Medicare) Bill 2003—Copy of letter to Senator Murphy from the Minister for Health and Ageing (Mr Abbott), dated 10 March 2004.

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Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put and passed. All government senators, by leave, recorded their votes for the noes.

Senator Allison moved the following amendment:

Page 2 (after line 2), after clause 3, add:

**5 Cessation of operation of Act**

This Act, unless sooner repealed, ceases to operate at the expiration of four years after its commencement.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put and negatived.

Senator Evans moved the following amendment:

Schedule 1, page 3 (after line 4), before item 1, insert:

**1A Before section 8**

Insert:

**7C The Principles of Medicare**

- (1) Medicare is a universal national health insurance system that is paid for from the taxation contributions of all Australians and to which all Australians have equal access.
- (2) Given the universal nature of Medicare, it is unlawful to increase patient rebates for a bulk billed consultation or pay other incentives to medical practitioners to bulk bill consultations unless the same patient rebate or incentive applies to all bulk billed consultations.
- (3) As part of Medicare, all reasonable steps should be taken to enable 80% of unREFERRED services to be bulk billed.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put and negatived.

Bill, as amended, agreed to, subject to requests.

Bill to be reported with an amendment and requests.

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The Deputy President (Senator Hogg) resumed the chair and the Temporary Chair of Committees (Senator Kirk) reported accordingly.

On the motion of the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads (Senator Ian Campbell) the report from the committee was adopted.

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*At 12.45 pm—*

**15 AUSTRALIAN SPORTS DRUG AGENCY AMENDMENT BILL 2004**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads (Senator Ian Campbell)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

No amendments to the bill were circulated and no senator required that it be considered in committee.

On the motion of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Senator Troeth) the bill was read a third time.

**16 CUSTOMS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE MODERNISATION AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2003  
IMPORT PROCESSING CHARGES (AMENDMENT AND REPEAL) AMENDMENT  
BILL 2003**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads (Senator Ian Campbell)—That these bills be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed.

Bills read a second time.

No amendments to the bills were circulated and no senator required that they be considered in committee.

On the motion of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Senator Troeth) the bills were read a third time.

**17 NATIONAL MEASUREMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2003**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads (Senator Ian Campbell)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

No amendments to the bill were circulated and no senator required that it be considered in committee.

On the motion of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Senator Troeth) the bill was read a third time.

*Suspension of sitting:* On the motion of Senator Troeth the sitting of the Senate was suspended till 2 pm.

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*At 2 pm—*

**18 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice were answered.

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*Document:* The Special Minister of State (Senator Abetz) tabled the following document:

Administration—Australian Government leases—Copy of table, Australian Government leases in Barton, ACT, commencing between 1989-1994.

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Further questions without notice were answered.

**19 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—ANSWERS AND EXPLANATION**

Senator Cherry, pursuant to standing order 74, asked the Minister for Family and Community Services (Senator Patterson) for an explanation of answers not being provided to questions on notice nos 2209, 2210 and 2211 (notice given 10 October 2003).

Senator Patterson indicated that an answer to question on notice no. 2211 had been provided and that answers to questions on notice nos 2209 and 2210 would be provided.

**20 DEFENCE—TANKS—ANSWER TO QUESTION**

Senator Evans moved—That the Senate take note of the answer given by the Minister for Defence (Senator Hill) to a question without notice asked by Senator Evans today relating to the Government's purchase of tanks from the United States of America.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

**21 HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (MEDICARE) BILL 2003**

A message from the House of Representatives was reported indicating that the House had made the amendments requested by the Senate to the following bill:

Message no. 536, dated 11 March 2004—Health Legislation Amendment (Medicare) Bill 2003.

The Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads (Senator Ian Campbell) moved—That this bill be now read a third time.

Debate ensued.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

**AYES, 33**

Senators—

Barnett	Ellison	Macdonald, Ian	Scullion
Boswell	Ferguson	Macdonald, Sandy	Tchen
Brandis	Ferris (Teller)	Mason	Tierney
Calvert	Harris	McGauran	Troeth
Campbell, Ian	Humphries	Minchin	Vanstone
Chapman	Johnston	Murphy	Watson
Colbeck	Knowles	Patterson	
Coonan	Lees	Payne	
Eggleston	Lightfoot	Santoro	

**NOES, 31**

Senators—

Allison	Conroy	Kirk	Ray
Bishop	Cook	Ludwig	Ridgeway
Bolkus	Crossin	Mackay (Teller)	Sherry
Brown	Evans	Marshall	Stephens
Buckland	Forshaw	McLucas	Stott Despoja
Campbell, George	Greig	Murray	Webber
Cherry	Hogg	Nettle	Wong
Collins	Hutchins	O'Brien	

Question agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

**22 ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS  
REFERENCES COMMITTEE—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—INQUIRY INTO GULF ST  
VINCENT**

The Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads (Senator Ian Campbell) tabled the following document:

Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee—Report—Inquiry into Gulf St Vincent—Government response.

**23 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—  
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—REVIEW OF THE DEFENCE ANNUAL REPORT 2001-02**

The Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads (Senator Ian Campbell) tabled the following document:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Report—Review of the Defence annual report 2001-02—Government response, dated March 2004.

**24 DOCUMENTS**

The following documents were tabled by the Clerk:

Parliamentary Entitlements Act—Parliamentary Entitlements Regulations—Advice under paragraph 18(a), dated 8 March 2004.

Payment Systems and Netting Act—Approval under section 9—Approval No. 1 of 2004.

**25 INDEXED LISTS OF DEPARTMENTAL AND AGENCY FILES—ORDER FOR  
PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS—DOCUMENTS**

The following documents were tabled pursuant to the order of the Senate of 30 May 1996, as amended:

Indexed lists of departmental and agency files for the period 1 July to 31 December 2003—Statements of compliance—

Department of Health and Ageing.

Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General.

**26 COMMITTEES—CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP**

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Brandis) informed the Senate that the President had received letters requesting changes in the membership of various committees.

The Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads (Senator Ian Campbell), by leave, moved—That senators be discharged from and appointed to committees as follows:

**Economics Legislation Committee—**

Appointed—

Participating member: Senator O'Brien

Substitute member: Senator Stott Despoja to replace Senator Murray for the committee's inquiry into the provisions of the Greater Sunrise Unitisation Agreement Implementation Bill 2004 and a related bill

**Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—**

Appointed—Substitute member: Senator Payne to replace Senator Sandy Macdonald for the committee's inquiry into the effectiveness of the Australian military justice system on 28 April and 29 April 2004

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—**

Appointed—Substitute member: Senator Allison to replace Senator Cherry for the committee's inquiry into the provisions of the Civil Aviation Legislation Amendment (Mutual Recognition with New Zealand and Other Matters) Bill 2003.

Question put and passed.

*General business was called on.*

**27 WORKPLACE RELATIONS AMENDMENT (PAID MATERNITY LEAVE) BILL 2002**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Stott Despoja—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

*At 6 pm:* Debate was interrupted while Senator Santoro was speaking.

**28 GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS—ORDERS OF THE DAY—CONSIDERATION**

The following orders of the day relating to government documents were considered:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission—Report for 2002-03. Motion of Senator Crossin to take note of document debated. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator O'Brien in continuation.

Indigenous education and training—National report to Parliament 2002. Motion of Senator Crossin to take note of document agreed to.

United Nations—Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women—Women in Australia: Australia's combined fourth and fifth reports on implementing the Convention. Motion of Senator Stott Despoja to take note of document agreed to.

*Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*—Renewable opportunities: A review of the operation of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*, September 2003. Motion of Senator Murphy to take note of document agreed to.

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency—Quarterly report for the period 1 July to 30 September 2003. Motion of Senator Stott Despoja to take note of document agreed to.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner—Native title—Report for 2003. Motion of Senator Greig to take note of document debated. Debate adjourned till Thursday at general business, Senator O'Brien in continuation.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner—Social justice—Report for 2003. Motion of Senator Greig to take note of document called on. On the motion of Senator O'Brien debate adjourned till Thursday at general business.

Australian Communications Authority—National relay service provider performance—Report for 2002-03. Motion of Senator Stott Despoja to take note of document agreed to.

*General business concluded.*

**29 COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REFERENCES COMMITTEE—REPORT—POVERTY AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP—DOCUMENT**

Senator Ferris, at the request of the Chair of the Community Affairs References Committee (Senator Hutchins), tabled the following document:

Community Affairs References Committee—Poverty and financial hardship—A hand up not a hand out: Renewing the fight against poverty—Report—Corrigendum [Balancing the picture on poverty, page 448].

Document ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator Ferris.

**30 ADJOURNMENT**

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Ferguson) proposed the question—That the Senate do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The Senate adjourned at 6.39 pm till Monday, 22 March 2004 at 12.30 pm.

**31 ATTENDANCE**

Present, all senators except Senators Denman, Heffernan and Moore\* (\* on leave).

**HARRY EVANS**  
Clerk of the Senate