

CHAPTER 1

Referral

1.1 The *Sex Discrimination Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2000* ('the Bill') was introduced into the House of Representatives on 17 August 2000.

1.2 On 31 October 2000 the Selection of Bills Committee¹ agreed to refer the provisions of the Bill to the Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee ('the Committee') for inquiry and report by 4 December 2000. On 4 December 2000 the Senate extended the reporting date until 27 February 2001.

Conduct of the Inquiry

1.3 The Committee wrote to a range of organisations and individuals on 2 November 2000 inviting submissions and advertised in the national press on 4 November 2000. The Committee received a total of 172 submissions. These are listed in Appendix 1. The Committee also acknowledges the receipt by email of many comments both supporting and opposing the amendments.

1.4 The Committee held hearings in Sydney on 20 November 2000, in Melbourne on 21 November 2000 and 13 February 2001 and in Canberra on 28 November 2000. A list of witnesses at these hearings is at Appendix 2.

1.5 The Committee wishes to thank all those who provided submissions and gave oral evidence.

Notes on References

1.6 References to submissions are to individual submissions as received by the Committee, and not to a bound volume.² References to the Hansard transcripts are to the proof Hansard. Page numbers may vary between the proof and the official Hansard transcript.

1 Senate, Selection of Bills Committee, *Report No. 18 of 2000, Senate Hansard*, p. 3457

2 Copies of bound volumes or single submissions may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat

