



# Senate Journals

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## 1 Meeting of Senate

The Senate met at 9.30 am. The President (Senator the Honourable Scott Ryan) took the chair, read prayers and made an acknowledgement of country.

## 2 Documents

The Clerk tabled the following documents pursuant to statute:

*[Legislative instruments are identified by a Federal Register of Legislation (FRL) number. An explanatory statement is tabled with an instrument unless otherwise indicated by an asterisk.]*

*Australian Crime Commission Establishment Act 2002*—Australian Crime Commission Establishment Regulations 2020 [F2020L00162].

*Federal Financial Relations Act 2009*—Federal Financial Relations (General Purpose Financial Assistance) Determination No. 132 (February 2020) [F2020L00164].

*Health Insurance Act 1973*—

Health Insurance (Extended Medicare Safety Net) Amendment Determination 2020 [F2020L00166].

Health Insurance Legislation Amendment (Intensive Care and Emergency Medicine) Regulations 2020 [F2020L00165].

*National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009*—ASIC Credit (Amendment) Instrument 2020/148 [F2020L00168].

*Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*—Commonwealth acquired shares in Australian Rail Track Corporation—13 February 2020 [5].

*Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973*—Remuneration Tribunal (Members' Fees and Allowances) Amendment Regulations 2020 [F2020L00167].

*Social Security Act 1991*—Social Security (Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment—Eastern Queensland Bushfires) Determination 2020 (No. 13)—LIN 20/044 [F2020L00163].

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The Clerk tabled the following documents pursuant to order:

Department of the Environment and Energy—Quarterly update of Australia's national greenhouse gas inventory: September 2019.

Entity contracts for 2019—Letter of advice pursuant to the order of the Senate of 20 June 2001, as amended—Industry, Science, Energy and Resources portfolio.

Estimates hearings—Unanswered questions on notice—Budget estimates 2019-20 (Supplementary)—Statement pursuant to the order of the Senate of 25 June 2014—Defence Housing Australia.

Indexed lists of departmental and agency files for the period 1 July to 31 December 2019—Statement of compliance pursuant to the order of the Senate of 30 May 1996, as amended—

Australian Taxation Office.

Defence portfolio.

Department of Veterans' Affairs (including the Australian War Memorial).

Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio.

Social Services portfolio.

### 3 **Committee—Leave to meet during sitting**

The Select Committee on Multi-Jurisdictional Management and Execution of the Murray Darling Basin Plan was authorised to hold a private meeting otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1) today, from 4.30 pm.

### 4 **Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (Simplifying Income Reporting and Other Measures) Bill 2020**

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

#### *In the committee*

Consideration resumed of the bill, as amended.

Senator Siewert moved the following amendment:

Schedule 1, item 37, page 10 (after line 32), after subsection 1073BA(2), insert:

- (2A) For the purposes of subsection (2), when determining such period a person is taken to have received employment income over, the Secretary must consider the following:
- (a) the nature of the person's remunerative work;
  - (b) the nature of the person's employment income, including the matters in subsections 8(1A)-(1C);
  - (c) any hardship which may be caused to the person by attributing employment income over such period;
  - (d) whether the employment income relates to remunerative work that was undertaken at a time when the person was not receiving a social security pension or a social security benefit.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The committee divided—

AYES, 29

Senators—

Ayres	Faruqi	McKim	Steele-John
Bilyk*	Hanson-Young	O'Neill	Sterle
Brown	Keneally	Polley	Urquhart
Carr	Kitching	Pratt	Walsh
Ciccone	Lines	Sheldon	Waters
Di Natale	McAllister	Siewert	Watt
Dodson	McCarthy	Smith, Marielle	Whish-Wilson
Farrell			

## NOES, 35

Senators—

Antic	Fawcett	McGrath	Roberts
Askew	Fierravanti-Wells	McKenzie	Ruston
Bragg	Griff	McLachlan	Ryan
Brockman	Hanson	McMahon	Scarr
Cash	Henderson	Molan	Seselja
Chandler	Hughes	O'Sullivan	Smith, Dean*
Colbeck	Hume	Paterson	Stoker
Davey	Lambie	Patrick	Van
Duniam	McDonald	Rennick	

\* Tellers

Question negatived.

On the motion of Senator Dodson, the following amendment was debated and agreed to:

Schedule 1, item 37, page 10 (after line 32), at the end of subsection 1073BA(2), add:

Note 1: When determining the period, the Secretary may take into consideration the following:

- (a) the nature of the person's remunerative work;
- (b) the nature of the person's employment income;
- (c) the person's financial interests;
- (d) any financial hardship which may be caused to the person;
- (e) whether the employment income relates to remunerative work that was undertaken at a time when the person was not receiving a social security pension or a social security benefit.

Note 2: The period determined by the Secretary should be fair and reasonably beneficial, taking into account the financial interests of the person receiving the social security pension or social security benefit.

Senator Dodson moved the following amendment:

Page 31 (after line 16), at the end of the bill, add:

**Schedule 2—Amendments relating to debts due to the Commonwealth**

***A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Administration) Act 1999***

**1 After subsection 77(1)**

Insert:

(1A) The Secretary must not give a person a notice under subsection (1) unless the Secretary is satisfied that:

- (a) employment income averaging based on data obtained from a taxation officer was not the only information relied on to determine whether the debt was due to the Commonwealth; and
- (b) information gathering powers in Division 1 of Part 6 were used to verify that the debt is due to the Commonwealth; and
- (c) the existence and quantum of the debt owed has been verified by an officer.

Note: The duties of officials under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* include the duty of care and diligence; and the duty to act honestly, in good faith and for a proper purpose.

## ***Social Security Act 1991***

### **2 After subsection 1229(1)**

Insert:

(1A) The Secretary must not give a person a notice under subsection (1) unless the Secretary is satisfied that:

- (a) employment income averaging based on data obtained from a taxation officer was not the only information relied on to determine whether the debt was due to the Commonwealth; and
- (b) information gathering powers in Division 1 of Part 5 of the Administration Act were used to verify that the debt is due to the Commonwealth; and
- (c) the existence and quantum of the debt owed has been verified by an officer.

Note: The duties of officials under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* include the duty of care and diligence; and the duty to act honestly, in good faith and for a proper purpose.

## ***Student Assistance Act 1973***

### **3 After subsection 40(1)**

Insert:

(1A) The Secretary must not give a person a notice under subsection (1) unless the Secretary is satisfied that:

- (a) employment income averaging based on data obtained from a taxation officer (within the meaning of Division 3 of Part 10) was not the only information relied on to determine whether the debt was due to the Commonwealth; and
- (b) information gathering powers in Division 2 of Part 10 were used to verify that the debt is due to the Commonwealth; and
- (c) the existence and quantum of the debt owed has been verified by an officer.

Note: The duties of officials under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* include the duty of care and diligence; and the duty to act honestly, in good faith and for a proper purpose.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The committee divided—

AYES, 32

Senators—

Ayres	Green	McCarthy	Smith, Marielle
Bilyk*	Hanson	McKim	Steele-John
Brown	Hanson-Young	O'Neill	Sterle
Carr	Keneally	Polley	Urquhart
Ciccone	Kitching	Pratt	Walsh
Di Natale	Lambie	Roberts	Waters
Dodson	Lines	Sheldon	Watt
Faruqi	McAllister	Siewert	Whish-Wilson

## NOES, 32

Senators—

Antic	Duniam	McGrath	Rennick
Askew	Fawcett	McKenzie	Ruston
Bragg	Fierravanti-Wells	McLachlan	Ryan
Brockman	Griff	McMahon	Scarr
Cash	Henderson	Molan	Seselja
Chandler	Hughes	O'Sullivan	Smith, Dean*
Colbeck	Hume	Paterson	Stoker
Davey	McDonald	Patrick	Van

\* Tellers

The ayes and noes were equal and so the question was negatived.

Bill agreed to and reported with amendments.

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On the motion of the Minister for Families and Social Services (Senator Ruston) the report from the committee was adopted and the bill read a third time.

## 5 **Australian Business Growth Fund Bill 2019**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters (Senator Seselja)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Bill read a second time.

The Senate resolved itself into committee for the consideration of the bill.

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### *In the committee*

Bill, taken as a whole by leave, debated.

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*At 11.45 am:* The committee reported progress.

## 6 **Notices**

The Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business (Senator Cash): To move on the next day of sitting—That, in accordance with subsection 10B(2) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*, the Senate approves the Health Insurance (Extended Medicare Safety Net) Amendment Determination 2020, made under subsection 10B(1) of the Act on 24 February 2020.

Senator Siewert: To move on the next day of sitting—

- (1) That the Senate—
  - (a) notes that:
    - (i) the 2020 Poverty in Australia Overview found that 3.24 million people, including 774,000 children under 15, are living below the poverty line,
    - (ii) people living in rural and remote Australia experience higher rates of poverty than those who live in metropolitan areas,
    - (iii) Newstart has not been increased in real terms in over 25 years, and
    - (iv) the gap between cost of living and income support payments continues to grow, prompting the Australian Council of Social Service to call for an increase to Newstart by \$95 a week;
  - (b) acknowledges that increasing Newstart and Youth Allowance has broad support from across the business, community and social services sectors;
  - (c) recognises that increasing Newstart and Youth Allowance would provide significant economic stimulus and create thousands of new jobs, especially in regional and rural areas; and
  - (d) calls on the Federal Government to make it a priority to help address poverty in Australia by immediately raising Newstart and Youth Allowance by a significant amount.
- (2) That this resolution be communicated to the House of Representatives for concurrence. (*general business notice of motion no. 522*)

The Leader of the Australian Greens in the Senate (Senator Waters): To move on the next day of sitting—

- (1) That there be laid on the table by the Minister for Finance, by no later than 30 April of each calendar year:
  - (a) all reports and correspondence received by the Minister for Finance under paragraph 4.12 of the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017 during the preceding calendar year (noting that the Guidelines do not apply to all grant administrators, including not applying to the allocation of funding by Sports Australia under the Community Sport Infrastructure Grants program ('Sports Rorts')); and
  - (b) a summary of the decisions reported under paragraph 4.12 of the Commonwealth Grant Rules and Guidelines 2017, including the Central Budget Management System program title, sub-program, grant activity, grantee, total grant value, grant funding location, postcode, and a brief statement of reasons for the decision.
- (2) If the Senate is not sitting when the documents are ready for presentation, the documents are to be presented to the President under standing order 166.
- (3) This order is of continuing effect. (*general business notice of motion no. 523*)



The Leader of the Australian Greens in the Senate (Senator Waters): To move on the next day of sitting—That the following bill be introduced: A Bill for an Act to amend the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, and for related purposes. ***Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Capping Donations) Bill 2020***. (*general business notice of motion no. 524*)

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

- (a) notes that:
  - (i) successive governments have cut university funding, leaving the sector reliant on international student fees to fund education and research,
  - (ii) the COVID-19 crisis has highlighted how vulnerable the Government has left our tertiary education system, and
  - (iii) the Government has allowed casualisation and insecure work to run rampant at universities, to the detriment of students' learning, staff well-being and research excellence; and
- (b) calls on the Federal Government to:
  - (i) end the funding freeze on Commonwealth supported places,
  - (ii) boost funding per-Commonwealth supported place student by 10%,
  - (iii) guarantee the jobs and income of university staff on insecure contracts during the travel ban, and
  - (iv) support international students through this crisis. (*general business notice of motion no. 525*)

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

- (a) notes that:
  - (i) the Collins Class submarines are a vital capability for Australia,
  - (ii) historically the Collins class had poor availability, at worst not one was available to go to sea,
  - (iii) after a significant commitment of resources, and more than half a decade, submarine sustainment has improved, now achieving world benchmarks,
  - (iv) the current sustainment model works, and
  - (v) there is a proposal before Government to disrupt the sustainment model and move Full Cycle Dockings from South Australia (SA) to Western Australia, which would:
    - (A) result in a huge loss of corporate knowledge from Australia's submarine sustainment organisation,
    - (B) inject significant challenges and risk into submarine sustainment,
    - (C) reduce submarine availability, thereby damaging national security, and
    - (D) achieve, at best, the current performance, and thus cannot represent value for money; and

- (b) calls on the Federal Government to:
  - (i) recognise the success of the current sustainment model, and
  - (ii) continue the current sustainment model, retaining all Collins Class submarine Full Cycle Docking activities in SA. (*general business notice of motion no. 526*)

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

- (a) notes that:
  - (i) Australia is a nation of migrants – it is a part of our national identity, and the migrant story is our Australian story,
  - (ii) Australians have welcomed people from every corner of the globe and we have grown stronger together because new Australians have moved here, settled down, raised families, started businesses, and enriched our culture and our economy,
  - (iii) Australia celebrates the generations of migrants who have made the international leap of faith,
  - (iv) under the Morrison Government, we are seeing a change in our nation – one built by permanent migrants – to an economy reliant on temporary migrants,
  - (v) this shift is changing Australia, for the worse, and it is happening without most Australians even realising,
  - (vi) the Liberal National Government asked the Productivity Commission to examine the migrant intake into Australia in March 2015,
  - (vii) the Productivity Commission delivered over 700 pages of analysis and assessment in its *Migrant Intake into Australia* report to then-Liberal National Government Treasurer, Mr Scott Morrison, in April 2016, and
  - (viii) neither Mr Morrison, nor the Government ever responded to this crucial work; and
- (b) condemns the Morrison Government for their failure to:
  - (i) respond to the Productivity Commission report examining the migrant intake into Australia, and
  - (ii) action any of the recommendations from the Productivity Commission Report. (*general business notice of motion no. 527*)

*Notices of motion withdrawn:* The Chair of the Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation (Senator Fierravanti-Wells), pursuant to notices of intention given on 26 February 2020, withdrew business of the Senate notices of motion standing in her name, as follows:

Business of the Senate notice of motion no. 1 for two sitting days after today for the disallowance of the Financial Sector (Collection of Data) (reporting standard) determination No. 30 of 2019 [F2019L01196].

Business of the Senate notice of motion no. 1 for 13 sitting days after today for the disallowance of the Jervis Bay Territory Rural Fires Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Rules 2019 [F2019L01494].

## 7 Selection of Bills—Standing Committee—Report no. 3 of 2020

The Chair of the Selection of Bills Committee (Senator Dean Smith) tabled the following report:

### SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

#### REPORT NO. 3 OF 2020

1. The committee met in private session on Wednesday, 26 February 2020 at 7.45 pm.
2. The committee recommends that—
  - (a) the **provisions** of the Australian Education Amendment (Direct Measure of Income) Bill 2020 be **referred immediately** to the Education and Employment Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 1 May 2020;
  - (b) the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Donation Reform and Other Measures) Bill 2020 be **referred immediately** to the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 30 June 2020;
  - (c) the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2020 be **referred immediately** to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 14 October 2020;
  - (d) the Intelligence and Security Legislation Amendment (Implementing Independent Intelligence Review) Bill 2020 be **referred immediately** to the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 25 June 2020; and
  - (e) the **provisions** of the National Radioactive Waste Management Amendment (Site Specification, Community Fund and Other Measures) Bill 2020 be **referred immediately** to the Economics Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 12 June 2020.
3. The committee recommends that the following bills **not** be referred to committees:
  - Defence Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill 2020
  - Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Improving Assistance for Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Families) Bill 2020
  - Farm Household Support Amendment (Relief Measures) Bill (No. 1) 2020
  - National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Amendment (Governance and Other Matters) Bill 2020
  - Statute Update (Regulations References) Bill 2020
  - Superannuation Amendment (PSSAP Membership) Bill 2020
  - Treasury Laws Amendment (2020 Measures No. 1) Bill 2020.
4. The committee deferred consideration of the following bills to its next meeting:
  - Aged Care Legislation Amendment (Improved Home Care Payment Administration No. 1) Bill 2020
  - Air Services Amendment Bill 2018

Australian Education Legislation Amendment (Prohibiting the Indoctrination of Children) Bill 2020

Constitution Alteration (Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Press) 2019

Customs Amendment (Safer Cladding) Bill 2019

Discrimination Free Schools Bill 2018

Galilee Basin (Coal Prohibition) Bill 2018

Governor-General Amendment (Cessation of Allowances in the Public Interest) Bill 2019

Great Australian Bight Environment Protection Bill 2019

Health Insurance Amendment (General Practitioners and Quality Assurance) Bill 2020

Regional Forest Agreements Legislation (Repeal) Bill 2017

Social Services Legislation Amendment (Better Targeting Student Payments) Bill 2019

Social Services Legislation Amendment (Ending the Poverty Trap) Bill 2018

Social Services Legislation Amendment (Payment Integrity) Bill 2019.

Dean Smith

Chair

27 February 2020.

Senator Dean Smith moved—That the report be adopted.

Question put and passed.

## 8 **Order of business—Rearrangement**

The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam) moved—That—

- (a) the following government business orders of the day be considered from 12.45 pm today:

No. 11 Student Identifiers Amendment (Higher Education) Bill 2019

No. 12 Export Control Bill 2019

Export Control (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2019

Export Charges (Imposition—Customs) Amendment Bill 2019

Export Charges (Imposition—Excise) Amendment Bill 2019

Export Charges (Imposition—General) Amendment Bill 2019

No. 13 Statute Update (Regulations References) Bill 2020

- (b) government business be called on after consideration of the bills listed in paragraph (a) and considered till not later than 2 pm today.

Question put and passed.

Senator Duniam moved—That general business notice of motion no. 512 standing in the name of Senator Gallagher relating to economic conditions be considered during general business today.

Question put and passed.

Senator Duniam moved—That the following general business orders of the day be considered on Monday, 23 March 2020 at the time for private senators' bills:

No. 51 Banking Amendment (Deposits) Bill 2020

No. 44 Telecommunications Amendment (Repairing Assistance and Access) Bill 2019.

Question put and passed.

## 9 Committees—Extensions of time to report

The following committees were granted extensions of time to report:

Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee—Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Amendment (Tax Transparency in Procurement and Grants) Bill 2019—from 19 March to 21 April 2020.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee—Australian dairy farmers—from 25 February to 25 June 2020.

## 10 Education and Employment References Committee—Reference—General Motors Holden in Australia

Senator Urquhart, at the request of Senator Pratt, amended business of the Senate notice of motion no. 1 by leave and, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved—That the following matter be referred to the Education and Employment References Committee for inquiry and report by first sitting day in May 2020:

The announcement, by General Motors on 17 February 2020, to withdraw the Holden brand and operations from Australia, with particular reference to:

- (a) the impacts of that decision on:
  - (i) Holden employees,
  - (ii) the Holden dealership network (small and medium sized businesses and family enterprises, and their employees),
  - (iii) the Holden research and development facilities, and
  - (iv) owners of Holden vehicles (including service and repair);
- (b) the role of the Franchise Code and the Government's proposed dealership amendments to the Franchise Code;
- (c) government or other policy settings on manufacturing, research and development, business support and transition, and employee support; and
- (d) any related matters.

*Statements by leave:* The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam) and Senator Faruqi, by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put and passed.

## 11 Domestic violence—Rates

The Leader of the Australian Greens in the Senate (Senator Waters), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 503—That—

(1) The Senate notes that:

- (a) since the last sitting of the Senate, two more women have been killed by violence in Australia, taking the national toll since the start of 2020 to nine, as reported by Counting Dead Women Australia from Destroy The Joint;
- (b) there is no national government reporting program to record the ongoing toll of women killed by violence in real time and ensure that these horrifying statistics receive ongoing public attention;
- (c) on average, one woman is murdered every week by her current or former partner;
- (d) according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Personal Safety Survey 2016:
  - (i) more than 370,000 Australian women are subjected to violence from men each year,
  - (ii) 1 in 3 Australian women has experienced physical violence,
  - (iii) 1 in 5 Australian women has experienced sexual violence,
  - (iv) 1 in 6 Australian women has experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or former partner,
  - (v) 1 in 4 Australian women has experienced emotional abuse by a current or former partner,
  - (vi) Australian women are nearly three times more likely than men to experience violence from an intimate partner, and
  - (vii) Australian women are 2.5 times more likely to be hospitalised for assault injuries arising from family and domestic violence than men, with hospitalisation rates rising by 23% since 2014-2015;
- (e) in 2017, young women aged 15-34 accounted for more than half of reported sexual assaults;
- (f) there is growing evidence that women with disabilities are more likely to experience violence;
- (g) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women report experiencing violence at 3.1 times the rate of non-Indigenous women;
- (h) in 2016-2017, Indigenous women were 32 times as likely to be hospitalised due to family violence as non-Indigenous women;
- (i) the Fourth Action Plan of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* states that the overall prevalence of violence against women will only start to decrease in the very long term as gender roles change; and
- (j) the Fourth Action Plan recognises that demand for domestic and family violence services has increased, and will continue to increase.

- (2) The Senate calls on the government to:
- (a) recognise domestic violence against women as a national security crisis;
  - (b) adequately fund frontline domestic, family and sexual violence and crisis housing services to ensure that all women seeking safety can access these services when and where they need them;
  - (c) legislate for 10 days paid domestic and family violence leave so that women do not have to choose between paying the bills and seeking safety;
  - (d) ensure that all government funded counselling services for domestic and family violence are delivered by expert family violence service providers in accordance with the National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions;
  - (e) implement all 25 recommendations of the 2015 Senate inquiry into domestic violence in Australia; and
  - (f) maintain and publish an official real-time national toll of women killed by violence Australia.

*Statements by leave:* The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam) and Senator Roberts, by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

*Leave refused:* The Leader of Pauline Hanson's One Nation (Senator Hanson) sought leave to make a statement relating to the motion. An objection was raised and leave was not granted.

The question was divided at the request of the Minister for Families and Social Services (Senator Ruston).

Question—That the motion be agreed to in respect of part (1)—put and passed.

Question—That the motion be agreed to in respect of part (2)—put and negatived.

## 12 Notice of motion withdrawn

Senator Urquhart, at the request of Senator Gallagher withdrew general business notice of motion no. 506 standing in her name for today, relating to estimates hearings.

## 13 Australian Research Council—Grant recommendations—Order for production of documents

Senator Urquhart, at the request of the Senator Pratt and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 507—

- (1) There be laid on the table, by the Minister responsible for the Australian Research Council, or when that minister is in the House of Representatives, the minister in the Senate representing that minister, by not later than 15 days after the end of each calendar month, a letter of advice that a list, meeting the requirements of paragraph (2), of all Australian Research Council grant recommendations received by the responsible minister each month, has been published on the Internet.
- (2) The list of grant recommendations must be published in a machine readable format and specify the following information for each recommendation:
  - (a) identification or application number;
  - (b) title of application;
  - (c) scheme or stream;

- (d) date received by the responsible minister;
  - (e) whether the grant was approved or not approved by the responsible minister;
  - (f) date of the responsible minister's decision;
  - (g) date the applicant was informed of the grant outcome;
  - (h) the amount of funding granted (if any); and
  - (i) whether the grant was publicly announced and, if so, the date of the announcement.
- (3) If the Senate is not sitting when the letter is ready for presentation, the letter is to be presented to the President under standing order 166.
- (4) This order is of continuing effect.

*Statements by leave:* Senator Faruqi and the Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam), by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put and passed.

#### 14 **Administration of Sports Grants—Select Committee—Extension of time to report**

Senator Urquhart, at the request of the Chair of the Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants (Senator Chisholm) and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 508—That the time for the presentation of the report of the Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants be extended to 24 June 2020.

Question put and passed.

#### 15 **Banking Amendment (Deposits) Bill 2020**

Senator Roberts, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 509—That the following bill be introduced:

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Banking Act 1959*, and for related purposes.

Question put and passed.

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

*Explanatory memorandum:* Senator Roberts, by leave, tabled an explanatory memorandum relating to the bill.

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



## 16 **Veteran suicide**

Senator Lambie, also on behalf of Senators Hanson, Siewert, Steele-John, Marielle Smith and Patrick, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 510—That the Senate—

- (a) is not of the view that the Morrison Government's announcement of the National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention is 'better than a Royal Commission';
- (b) calls on the Morrison Government to establish a Royal Commission into Veteran Suicide, with a clear start and end date; and
- (c) invites the Royal Commissioner to recommend that a standing, permanent capability be established to oversee reform, should the Commissioner see fit to do so.

*Statements by leave:* The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam), the Leader of Pauline Hanson's One Nation (Senator Hanson) and Senator Steele-John, by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put and passed.

## 17 **Animal testing**

Senator Faruqi, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 511—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
  - (i) three baboons made a bid for freedom in Sydney this week,
  - (ii) the baboons were from a colony bred for use in research,
  - (iii) animal testing causes harm and suffering to animals, and
  - (iv) the episode has highlighted the community's concern for the welfare of animals used in experimentation and research;
- (b) wishes the baboons well; and
- (c) calls on the Federal Government to:
  - (i) ensure national transparency and accountability in the use of animals in research, and
  - (ii) invest in the methods and technology needed to end the use of animals for research purposes.

Question put and passed.

## 18 **Assistance animals**

Senator Siewert, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 513—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
  - (i) support and assistance dogs can help guide those living with trauma and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) back to a sense of safety, helping to improve interpersonal connections, encourage engagement in the community, improve the overall quality of life and can be particularly helpful for survivors of child sexual abuse, and

- (ii) the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* sets out the legal definition of an assistance animal, but there are inconsistencies in laws and policies across the states and territories, and between the states, territories and the Commonwealth which mean that people who use assistance animals face discrimination, uncertainty and a range of associated challenges to accessing the community which often exacerbates their symptoms of PTSD; and
- (b) calls on the Federal Government to:
  - (i) work with state and territory governments to develop a national model or interstate recognition of assistance animal identification,
  - (ii) ensure that certification that is clear and simple such as a single permit that can be used for a variety of legitimate purposes, so that a person could access public transport, employment and educational settings, and
  - (iii) ensure that the cost of any certification is accessible to those on low incomes.

*Statement by leave:* The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam), by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.

Question put and passed.

## 19 **King of Bhutan**

Senator Dean Smith, also on behalf of Senator Antic, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 514—That the Senate—

- (a) acknowledges the 18 years of diplomatic relations and longstanding friendship between Australia and Bhutan;
- (b) notes that:
  - (i) the King of Bhutan, His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the Fifth King ('Dragon King'), acceded to the throne on 9 December 2006, and
  - (ii) His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck celebrated his 40th birthday on 21 February; and
- (c) acknowledges the accession of the Dragon King catalysed Bhutan's transition to a fully democratic government, with the adoption of the 'Constitution of Bhutan' under his reign.

Question put and passed.

## 20 **Emperor of Japan**

Senator Dean Smith, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 515—That the Senate—

- (a) acknowledges the strong and trusted strategic, economic and cultural relationship between Australia and Japan, underpinned by our Special Strategic Partnership; and

(b) notes that:

- (i) the Emperor of Japan, His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, acceded to the Chrysanthemum Throne on 1 May 2019, with the imperial era title of Reiwa ('Beautiful Harmony'),
- (ii) Emperor Naruhito celebrated his birthday on 23 February, the Emperor's first since acceding to the throne, and
- (iii) the Consul-General of Japan marked the celebration of Emperor Naruhito's birthday on 20 February 2020, at an event in Peppermint Grove, attended by the Premier of Western Australia (WA), Opposition Leader, Ms Liza Harvey MLA, federal and state parliamentarians, and other representatives of the WA community.

Question put and passed.

## 21 **Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment—Additional estimates 2019-20**

Senator Urquhart, at the request of Senators McAllister and Hanson-Young and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 516—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

- (i) any questions going to the operations or financial positions of the departments and agencies which are seeking funds in the estimates are relevant questions for the purpose of estimates hearings, and
- (ii) the Senate has resolved that there are no areas in connection with the expenditure of public funds where any person has a discretion to withhold details or explanations from the Parliament or its committees unless the Parliament has expressly provided otherwise; and

(b) expects that at the examination of the 2019-20 additional estimates, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment will be prepared to provide information and answer questions with respect to the following matters:

- (i) the Environment Restoration Fund, including but not limited to a list of all commitments made under the fund, including details of the names of projects, amounts allocated and paid, dates commitments were announced, and associated electorates, and
- (ii) the Communities Environment Program, including but not limited to:
  - (A) the number of projects that required re-submission,
  - (B) the extent of written advice provided or received in relation to the eligibility of schools to be applicants,
  - (C) funds expended,
  - (D) training materials provided to departmental staff administering the program, and

- (E) any correspondence relating to the award (or attempted award) of Communities Environment Program funds to community members or groups in the electorate of Dunkley, including between the ministerial offices, departments, and the former member Mr Chris Crewther.

Question put and passed.

## 22 e-cigarette products

Senator Griff, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 517—That the Senate—

- (a) notes:
- (i) recent media reports that teenagers are taking up vaping under the misapprehension it is safe, and that concerned parents support a ban on the supply, sale and use of all e-cigarette products in Australia,
  - (ii) that it is legal to sell only nicotine-free vaping liquids in Australia,
  - (iii) that, while the sale of e-cigarette liquids containing nicotine is not legal in Australia, it is legal for a person to import a three-month supply of liquid containing nicotine for personal use,
  - (iv) that it is a simple task for anyone under the age of 18 to access vaping paraphernalia, including e-liquids containing nicotine, via online retailers, and
  - (v) a 2018 study in the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health* which cautioned that vaping may have a 'gateway effect' to cigarette use, with two-thirds of the young people surveyed stating a preference for e-cigarettes containing nicotine;
- (b) further notes that:
- (i) the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) issued a warning to consumers in January 2019 regarding undisclosed by-products and toxic ingredients including nicotine in e-liquid sold in Australia, despite being labelled 'nicotine-free', and
  - (ii) the TGA warning was prompted by a study, published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, which stated there is little to no regulation of e-cigarette manufacture, and the frequency with which nicotine is detected in e-liquids labelled 'nicotine-free' was concerning; and
- (c) calls on the Federal Government to:
- (i) regulate the manufacture and labelling of e-cigarette liquid to ensure safety and consistency of ingredients in imported and domestically-available products, and
  - (ii) ban the importation of e-cigarette liquids containing nicotine.

*Statement by leave:* Senator Roberts, by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 52

Senators—

Antic	Di Natale	McAllister	Rice
Askew	Dodson	McCarthy	Ruston
Ayres	Duniam	McDonald	Ryan
Bilyk	Faruqi	McKenzie	Sheldon
Bragg	Fawcett	McKim	Siewert
Brockman	Fierravanti-Wells	McLachlan	Smith, Dean*
Brown	Green	McMahon	Smith, Marielle
Canavan	Griff	Molan	Steele-John
Carr	Hanson-Young	O'Neill	Stoker
Chandler	Henderson	Patrick	Urquhart
Ciccone	Hughes	Polley	Waters
Colbeck	Hume	Pratt	Watt
Davey	Kitching	Rennick	Whish-Wilson

NOES, 3

Senators—

Hanson	Lambie	Roberts*
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\* Tellers

Question agreed to.

## 23 Industrial manslaughter laws

Senator Urquhart, at the request of Senator O'Neill and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 518—That the Senate—

- (a) recognises that:
  - (i) since the publication of the Education and Employment References Committee report, *They never came home—the framework surrounding the prevention, investigation and prosecution of industrial deaths in Australia* (the report), tabled on 17 October 2018, 183 workers have lost their lives in the workplace,
  - (ii) 2019 featured a nearly 10% increase in the number of Australians fatally injured while working compared with 2018, and
  - (iii) as of 13 February 2020, 21 Australian workers have died on the job this year,
- (b) congratulates the Victorian, Australian Capital Territory, Queensland and Northern Territory Governments for passing comprehensive industrial manslaughter laws; and
- (c) calls on the Federal Government to:
  - (i) act on the recommendations of the report, and
  - (ii) implement a federal industrial manslaughter regime.

*Statements by leave:* The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam) and Senator Faruqi, by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put and passed.

**24 Department of Home Affairs—Additional estimates 2019-20**

Senator Urquhart, at the request of Senator Keneally and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 519—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
  - (i) Australian public servants work extremely hard to prepare for estimates hearings, with an overriding spirit of acting ethically, respectfully, impartially and with accountability,
  - (ii) leadership by ministers and secretaries is essential to supporting public servants as they prepare for estimates hearings and as public servants prepare responses to questions on notice,
  - (iii) the quality of the answers to questions on notice provided by the Department of Home Affairs to senators following the October 2019 estimates round raises questions about whether details or explanations are being withheld from public scrutiny without sufficient explanation as to why,
  - (iv) Senator Keneally wrote to the Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs on 11 February 2020, and provided the Secretary with five case studies to demonstrate concerns that questions may not be being answered with a spirit of accountability and transparency that the Senate expects,
  - (v) Senator Keneally asked the Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs to re-examine the Department's responses to all of its questions on notice from the October 2019 estimates round, and to correct any omissions or lack of transparency, by 24 February 2020, and
  - (vi) as of 2 pm on 26 February 2020, the Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs has not responded to the senator's letter;
- (b) in advance of next week's estimates hearings, thanks the Australian Public Service for its commitment to acting ethically, respectfully, impartially and with accountability;
- (c) calls on the Secretary for the Department of Home Affairs to re-examine the Department's responses to all of its questions on notice from the October 2019 Estimates, and to correct any omissions or lack of transparency by 28 February 2020; and
- (d) ahead of additional estimates next week, reminds the Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs of his obligation under the Australian Public Service Values, including to the Australian public's right to know.

*Statement by leave:* The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam), by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

### AYES, 32

Senators—

Ayres	Faruqi	McCarthy	Siewert
Bilyk	Green	McKim	Smith, Marielle
Brown	Griff	O'Neill	Steele-John
Carr	Hanson-Young	Patrick	Urquhart*
Chisholm	Kitching	Polley	Walsh
Cicccone	Lambie	Pratt	Waters
Di Natale	Lines	Rice	Watt
Dodson	McAllister	Sheldon	Whish-Wilson

### NOES, 32

Senators—

Abetz	Duniam	McGrath	Roberts
Antic	Fawcett	McKenzie	Ruston
Askew	Fierravanti-Wells	McLachlan	Ryan
Bragg	Hanson	McMahon	Scarr
Canavan	Henderson	Molan	Seselja
Chandler	Hughes	O'Sullivan	Smith, Dean*
Colbeck	Hume	Paterson	Stoker
Davey	McDonald	Rennick	Van

\* *Tellers*

The ayes and noes were equal and so the question was negatived.

## 25 **Childcare support**

Senator Faruqi, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 520—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
  - (i) it is women who remain disproportionately more likely to arrange childcare and are assessed under the Government's 'activity test' to access childcare support, and
  - (ii) under the Government's 'activity test', only parents who undertake approved courses of education or study meet the activity test requirements;
- (b) considers that:
  - (i) it is wrong that parents studying Masters degrees or PhDs that are not approved by the Government do not meet the activity test requirements, and
  - (ii) this discriminates against women participating in education; and
- (c) calls on the Federal Government to extend eligibility for childcare support to all parents undertaking education or study.

*Statement by leave:* The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam), by leave, made a statement relating to the motion.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

### AYES, 32

Senators—

Ayres	Faruqi	McCarthy	Siewert
Bilyk	Green	McKim	Smith, Marielle
Brown	Griff	O'Neill	Steele-John
Carr	Hanson-Young	Patrick	Urquhart*
Chisholm	Kitching	Polley	Walsh
Cicccone	Lambie	Pratt	Waters
Di Natale	Lines	Rice	Watt
Dodson	McAllister	Sheldon	Whish-Wilson

### NOES, 32

Senators—

Abetz	Duniam	McGrath	Roberts
Antic	Fawcett	McKenzie	Ruston
Askew	Fierravanti-Wells	McLachlan	Ryan
Bragg	Hanson	McMahon	Scarr
Canavan	Henderson	Molan	Seselja
Chandler	Hughes	O'Sullivan	Smith, Dean*
Colbeck	Hume	Paterson	Stoker
Davey	McDonald	Rennick	Van

*\* Tellers*

The ayes and noes were equal and so the question was negatived.

## 26 Great Barrier Reef—Climate policy

The Leader of the Australian Greens in the Senate (Senator Waters), pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 521—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

- (i) the Great Barrier Reef supports approximately 64,000 jobs and generates \$6.4 billion for the Australian economy annually,
- (ii) approximately half of the shallow water coral of the Great Barrier Reef has been lost since 2016 due to successive coral bleaching incidents,
- (iii) the Centre for Tourism and Regional Opportunities has reported a dramatic decline in domestic tourism since successive coral bleaching events,
- (iv) in February 2020, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority survey teams found significant bleaching at three reefs in the Shelburne Bay and Wuthathi region of the Great Barrier Reef,
- (v) current National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coral Reef Watch forecasts show a heightened risk of a mass bleaching event in the Great Barrier Reef in the coming weeks, and
- (vi) climate change remains the greatest threat to the Great Barrier Reef; and

(b) calls on the Federal Government to:

- (i) implement a climate policy that accelerates actions to limit global warming to 1.5°C to protect the Great Barrier Reef and the jobs that it supports,



- (ii) take all action necessary to properly protect the Great Barrier Reef and avoid the UNESCO World Heritage Committee needing to place the Great Barrier Reef on the World Heritage In Danger List, and
- (iii) develop a clear plan to move Australia towards 100% clean energy, including a plan for a just transition for Australia's regional workforces so that regional economies can thrive and workers are protected.

*Statements by leave:* The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam) and Senators Roberts and Kitching, by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

#### AYES, 11

Senators—

Di Natale  
Faruqi  
Griff

Hanson-Young  
McKim  
Patrick

Rice  
Siewert\*  
Steele-John

Waters  
Whish-Wilson

#### NOES, 41

Senators—

Abetz  
Antic  
Askew  
Bilyk  
Bragg  
Brockman  
Brown  
Canavan  
Carr  
Chandler  
Ciccone

Colbeck  
Davey  
Duniam  
Fawcett  
Fierravanti-Wells  
Hanson  
Henderson  
Hughes  
Hume  
Lambie

McCarthy  
McDonald  
McKenzie  
McLachlan  
McMahon  
Molan  
O'Sullivan  
Paterson  
Pratt  
Rennick

Roberts  
Ruston  
Ryan  
Scarr  
Seselja  
Sheldon  
Smith, Dean  
Stoker  
Urquhart\*  
Van

\* *Tellers*

Question negated.

## 27 Committee membership

The President informed the Senate that he had received a letter requesting changes in the membership of a committee.

The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam), by leave, moved—  
That Senator Sheldon replace Senator Kitching on the Economics Legislation Committee for the committee's consideration of the 2019-20 additional estimates.

Question put and passed.

## 28 Australian Business Growth Fund Bill 2019

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.

Bill further debated.

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*At 12.45 pm:* The committee reported progress.

**29 Student Identifiers Amendment (Higher Education) Bill 2019**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam)—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 Senator Duniam the bill was read a third time.

**30 Export Control Bill 2019**

**Export Control (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2019**

**Export Charges (Imposition—Customs) Amendment Bill 2019**

**Export Charges (Imposition—Excise) Amendment Bill 2019**

**Export Charges (Imposition—General) Amendment Bill 2019**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (Senator Duniam)—That these bills be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed.

Bills read a second time.

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

On the motion of Senator Duniam the bills were read a third time.

**31 Statute Update (Regulations References) Bill 2020**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians (Senator Colbeck)—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 Senator Duniam the bill was read a third time.

**32 Australian Business Growth Fund Bill 2019**

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.

On the motion of Senator Brown the following amendments, taken together by leave, were debated and agreed to:

Clause 21, page 9 (lines 21 and 22), omit subclause (2), substitute:

- (2) The review must include:
  - (a) the effectiveness of this Act in meeting the object of this Act; and
  - (b) the effectiveness of any investment by the Commonwealth in the Fund in relation to the following:
    - (i) demand for equity investments by businesses;
    - (ii) the impact of the creation of the Fund on the overall access to capital for small and medium Australian enterprises;
    - (iii) the impact of the creation of the Fund on competition within capital markets in relation to small and medium Australian enterprises;
    - (iv) the operation of the rights and powers of the Commonwealth in relation to the governance arrangements of the Fund.

Clause 21, page 9 (line 24), at the end of subclause (3), add “The report of the review must not include information that is commercially sensitive.”.

Senator Patrick moved the following amendment:

Clause 5, page 3 (line 7), after the definition of *rules*, insert:

*small and medium Australian enterprise* means an Australian business with an annual turnover (within the meaning of the *Privacy Act 1988*) of less than \$100 million.

Debate ensued.

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*At 2 pm:* The committee reported progress.

### 33 Questions

Questions without notice were answered.

*Document:* The Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians (Senator Colbeck) tabled the following documents:

COVID-19—

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)—Fact sheets—Department of Health.

Letter from the Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health (Professor Murphy) to aged care providers, dated 26 February 2020.

Further questions without notice were answered.

### 34 Motions to take note of answers

Senator Farrell moved—That the Senate take note of the answers given by the Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann) and the Minister for Youth and Sport (Senator Colbeck) to questions without notice asked by Opposition senators today relating to the Community Sport Infrastructure Program.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

Senator Whish-Wilson moved—That the Senate take note of the answer given by the Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann) to a question without notice asked by Senator Whish-Wilson today relating to the Great Barrier Reef.

Question put and passed.

### **35 Committee reports and government responses—Tabling and consideration**

Pursuant to order, Senator Urquhart, at the request of the Chair of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee (Senator Carr), tabled the following report and documents:

Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee—Impact of changes to service delivery models on the administration and running of government programs—Report, dated February 2020, Hansard record of proceedings, additional information and submissions.

Senator Urquhart moved—That the Senate take note of the report.

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

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Pursuant to order, Senator Urquhart, at the request of the Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee (Senator Kitching), tabled the following report and documents:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee—Australia's declarations made under certain international laws—Report, dated February 2020, Hansard record of proceedings, additional information and submissions.

Senator Urquhart moved—That the Senate take note of the report.

Debate ensued.

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

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The Chair of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee (Senator Stoker) tabled the following report and documents:

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee—Migration Amendment (Regulation of Migration Agents) Bill 2019 and Migration Agents Registration Application Charge Amendment (Rates of Charge) Bill 2019 [Provisions]—Report, dated March 2020, and submissions.

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Senator Urquhart, at the request of the Chair of the Standing Committee of Senators' Interests (Senator Bilyk), tabled the following report:

Senators' Interests—Standing Committee—Report no. 1 of 2020—Annual report 2019, dated February 2020.

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Senator Davey, at the request of the Chair of the Community Affairs Legislation Committee (Senator Askew), tabled the following documents:

Community Affairs Legislation Committee—Report—Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (Simplifying Income Reporting and Other Measures) Bill 2020 [Provisions]—Additional information.

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The Chair of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services (Senator Paterson), tabled the following report and documents:

Corporations and Financial Services—Joint Statutory Committee—Regulation of auditing in Australia—Interim report, dated February 2020, Hansard record of proceedings, documents presented to the committee, additional information and submissions.

Senator Paterson moved—That the Senate take note of the report.

Debate ensued.

Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting, Senator O'Neill in continuation.

### 36 Documents—Orders of the day—Consideration

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

*Aged Care Act 1997*—Report for 2018-19 on the operation of the Act. Motion of Senator Polley to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday.

Schedule of multilateral treaties under negotiation, consideration or review by the Australian Government as at August 2019. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of document agreed to.

City of Sydney—Annual report—Order of 3 December 2019—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Senator Birmingham) responding to the order and raising a public interest immunity claim. Motion of Senator Watt to take note of document agreed to.

Education and Employment References Committee—Report—The people behind 000: mental health of our first responders—Order of 4 December 2019—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business (Senator Cash) responding to the order, and attachment. Motion of Senator McCarthy to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday.

President's report to the Senate on the status of government responses to parliamentary committee reports as at 31 December 2019. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday.

Outback Stores Pty Ltd—Report for 2018-19. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of document agreed to.

Australian Building and Construction Commission—Performance of the functions and the exercise of powers of the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner—Quarterly report for the period 1 July to 30 September 2019. Motion of Senator Ciccone to take note of document debated. Debate adjourned till Thursday.

Estimates hearings—Unanswered questions on notice—Statements pursuant to the order of the Senate of 25 June 2014—Budget estimates 2019-20 (Supplementary)—Agriculture and Water Resources portfolio; Attorney-General's portfolio; Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business portfolio; Finance portfolio [2]; National Australia Day Council; Old Parliament House. Motion of Senator McCarthy to take note of document agreed to.

Climate change reports—Order of 12 February 2020—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann), responding to the order. Motion of Senator Roberts to take note of document debated. Debate adjourned till Thursday.

Female Facilities and Water Safety program—Order of 11 February 2020 (430)—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Youth and Sport (Senator Colbeck), responding to the order and raising public interest immunity claims, and attachments. Motion of Senator Di Natale to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday.

Female Facilities and Water Safety program—Order of 11 February 2020 (431)—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business (Senator Cash), responding to the order and raising public interest immunity claims, and attachments. Motion of Senator Di Natale to take note of document agreed to.

Aboriginal Land Commissioner—Report for 2018-19. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday.

Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force—Report for 2018-19. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday.

*Fair Work Act 2009*—Quarterly reports by the Commonwealth Ombudsman for the periods—1 January to 31 March 2019; 1 April to 30 June 2019; 1 July to 30 September 2019; 1 October to 31 December 2019. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of document agreed to.

Independent National Security Legislation Monitor (INSLM)—Report for 2018-19. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of document debated. Debate adjourned till Thursday.

PFAS testing—Blood and genetic testing on humans and livestock—Order of 12 February 2020—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Defence (Senator Reynolds) responding to the order. Motion of Senator Roberts to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday.

Disaster risk reduction—Ministerial statement by the Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management (Mr Littleproud). Motion of Senator Watt to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till Thursday.

### **37 Committee reports and government responses—Orders of the day—Consideration**

The following orders of the day relating to committee reports and government responses were considered:

Oversight of the implementation of redress related recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse—Joint Select Committee—Report—Getting the National Redress Scheme right: An overdue step towards justice—Government response. Motion of Senator Siewert to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Education and Employment References Committee—Report—The people behind 000: mental health of our first responders—Government response. Motion of Senator Watt to take note of document called on debated. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity—Joint Statutory Committee—Examination of the annual report of the Integrity Commissioner 2017-18—Report. Motion of the chair of the committee (Senator Scarr) to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Inquiry into PFAS contamination in and around Defence bases—First report. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Jobs for the Future in Regional Areas—Select Committee—Report. Motion of Senator McDonald to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

National Disability Insurance Scheme—Joint Standing Committee—NDIS Planning—Interim report. Motion of Senator Brown to take note of report called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

### **38 Auditor-General's reports—Orders of the day—Consideration**

The following orders of the day relating to reports of the Auditor-General were considered:

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 20 of 2019-20—Financial statements audit—Audits of the financial statements of Australian Government entities for the period ended 30 June 2019. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of document agreed to.

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 22 of 2019-20—Performance audit—Future Submarine Program – Transition to design: Department of Defence. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of document agreed to.

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 23 of 2019-20—Performance audit—Award of funding under the Community Sport Infrastructure Program: Australian Sports Commission. Motion of Senator Urquhart to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Auditor-General—Audit report no. 25 of 2019-20—Performance audit—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation targets in major procurements: Across entities. Motion of Senator Siewert to take note of document called on. Debate adjourned till the next day of sitting.

**39 Department of Defence—Special purpose flights—Order for production of documents—Documents**

The Minister for Defence (Senator Reynolds) tabled the following documents:

Department of Defence—Special purpose flights—Order of 11 February 2020—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Defence (Senator Reynolds), dated 27 February 2020, responding to the order, and attachments as follows—

Election supplement—Schedule for the period 11 April to 18 May 2019.

Schedule for the period 1 January to 30 June 2019.

Senator Pratt moved—That the Senate take note of the documents.

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

**40 Grant agreement—Coast Track Huts Walk—Order for production of documents—Documents**

The Minister for Defence (Senator Reynolds) tabled the following documents:

Grant agreement—Coast Track Huts Walk—Order of 25 February 2020—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business (Senator Cash), dated 27 February 2020, responding to the order, and attachment as follows—

Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development (Mr McCormack), dated 27 February 2020, and raising a public interest immunity claim.

Senator McKim moved—That the Senate take note of the documents.

Question put and passed.

*General business was called on.*

**41 Economic conditions**

Senator O'Neill, at the request of Senator Gallagher and pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 512—That the Senate notes that—

- (a) after six years in office, the economy is floundering on the Government's watch;
- (b) Australians are struggling with stagnant wages, with wage growth stalling further;
- (c) net debt has more than doubled under this Government;
- (d) the Government does not have a plan to boost wages or growth in the economy;  
and
- (e) it is because of the Government's failures that Australia meets the challenges and uncertainties of the bushfires and coronavirus from a position of weakness, not strength.

Debate ensued.

*At 5.30 pm:* Debate was interrupted while Senator Bilyk was speaking.



**42 Naval Shipbuilding Advisory Board—Additional estimates 2019-20—Document**

The Minister for Families and Social Services (Senator Ruston) tabled the following document:

Naval Shipbuilding Advisory Board—Additional estimates 2019-20—Order of 12 February 2020—Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Defence (Senator Reynolds), dated 27 February 2020, responding to the order.

**43 Entity contracts—Order for production of documents—Document**

The Minister for Families and Social Services (Senator Ruston) tabled the following document:

Entity contracts for 2019—Letter of advice pursuant to the order of the Senate of 20 June 2001, as amended—Finance portfolio.

**44 Adjournment**

The President proposed the question—That the Senate do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

*Document:* The Minister for Families and Social Services (Senator Ruston) tabled the following document:

Naval Shipbuilding Advisory Board—Additional estimates 2019-20—Letter from the Minister for Defence (Senator Reynolds) to the Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee (Senator Abetz), dated 27 February 2020.

The Senate adjourned at 5.58 pm till Monday, 23 March 2020 at 10 am.

**45 Attendance**

Present, all senators except Senators Birmingham\* and Gallacher\* (\*on leave).

**RICHARD PYE**  
Clerk of the Senate