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1 Meeting of Senate
The Senate met at 1.55 pm, in accordance with a request made by the Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Cormann), with the agreement of the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wong), under the order of the Senate of 23 March 2020. The President (Senator the Honourable Scott Ryan) took the chair, read prayers and made an acknowledgement of country.

Documents: The President tabled the following documents:

Sitting of the Senate on 8 April 2020—
Letter to the President of the Senate from the Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann), dated 2 April 2020.
Letter from the President of the Senate to all senators, dated 2 April 2020.

2 Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic—Statement by President
The President made a statement relating to arrangements for the operation of the Senate in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Leave was granted for minor procedural variations to apply in the Senate to enable senators to observe social distancing and other health advice.

3 Documents
The following documents were tabled pursuant to standing order 61(1)(b):

[Documents presented since the last sitting of the Senate, pursuant to standing order 166, were authorised for publication on the dates indicated]

Documents presented by the President
1 Building and Construction Industry (Improving Productivity) Act 2016—Reports by the Commonwealth Ombudsman for the periods—
1 January to 31 March 2019. [Received 2 April 2020]
1 April to 30 June 2019. [Received 2 April 2020]
1 July to 30 September 2019. [Received 2 April 2020]
2 Temporary Chairs of Committees—Warrant, dated 8 April 2020, nominating Senator McGrath as an additional temporary chair of committees.

Auditor-General’s reports for 2019-20
3 No. 28—Performance audit—Case management by the Office of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions: Office of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. [Received 30 March 2020].
4 No. 29—Performance audit—Regulation of charities by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission: Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission; Australian Taxation Office. [Received 31 March 2020]
5 No. 30—Performance audit—Bilateral agreement arrangements between Services Australia and other entities: Across entities. [Received 2 April 2020]

Government documents
6 Approval of exemption to Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by non-corporate Commonwealth entities—COVID-19—Statement by the Special Minister of State, Senator Cormann, dated 1 April 2020.
Government responses to committee reports
7 National Disability Insurance Scheme—Joint Standing Committee—Reports—
Government responses, dated February 2020—
Market readiness for provision of services under the NDIS. [Received 24 March 2020]
NDIS planning interim report. [Received 24 March 2020]
Progress report 2019. [Received 24 March 2020]

Committee reports presented out of sitting
The following reports and documents were presented and authorised for publication on
the dates indicated pursuant to standing order 38(7)(a):
8 Additional estimates 2019-20—Reports, dated March 2020 [Received 24 March 2020)—
Environment and Communications Legislation Committee.
Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee.
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee.
Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee.
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee.
9 Appropriations, Staffing and Security—Standing Committee—Annual report 2018-19,
dated March 2020. [Received 25 March 2020]
10 Community Affairs References Committee—Current barriers to patient access to
medicinal cannabis in Australia—Report, dated March 2020, Hansard record of
proceedings, Document presented to the committee, additional information and
submissions. [Received 25 March 2020]
11 Privileges—Standing Committee—179th report—Person referred to in the Senate:
Mr Chris Enright, dated March 2020. [Received 24 March 2020]
12 Scrutiny of Bills—Standing Committee—Scrutiny digest 4 of 2020, dated 2 April
2020. [Received 2 April 2020]
13 Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation—Standing Committee—Delegated legislation
monitor 4 of 2020, dated 2 April 2020. [Received 2 April 2020]

References initiated by the Selection of Bills Committee
14 Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee—Transport Security
Amendment (Serious Crime) Bill 2019 [Provisions]—Report, dated March 2020,
Hansard record of proceedings, additional information and submissions. [Received
25 March 2020]

Committee reporting dates—Extensions pursuant to the order of 23 March 2020
Community Affairs References Committee—
Adequacy of Newstart and related payments and alternative mechanisms to
determine the level of income support payments in Australia—
from 27 March to 2 April 2020. [Received 23 March 2020]
from 2 April to 16 April 2020. [Received 30 March 2020]
Effective approaches to prevention, diagnosis and support for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder—
from 15 June to 9 September 2020. [Received 23 March 2020]
from 9 September to 2 December 2020. [Received 2 April 2020]
Possible cancer cluster on the Bellarine Peninsula—from 12 August to 26 November 2020. [Received 2 April 2020]

Economics Legislation Committee—
National Consumer Credit Protection Amendment (Small Amount Credit Contract and Consumer Lease Reforms) Bill 2019 (No. 2)—from 6 April to 21 September 2020. [Received 23 March 2020]
National Radioactive Waste Management Amendment (Site Specification, Community Fund and Other Measures) Bill 2020 [Provisions]—from 12 June to 31 July 2020. [Received 26 March 2020]
Treasury Laws Amendment (Research and Development Tax Incentive) Bill 2019 [Provisions]—from 30 April to 7 August 2020. [Received 26 March 2020]

Education and Employment References Committee—General Motors Holden Operations in Australia—from 12 May to 12 November 2020. [Received 23 March 2020]

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee—
Competition and Consumer Amendment (Prevention of Exploitation of Indigenous Cultural Expressions) Bill 2019—26 March to 16 April 2020. [Received 26 March 2020]
Coal-Fired Power Funding Prohibition Bill 2017—31 March to 16 April 2020. [Received 26 March 2020]
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2020—14 October 2020 to second sitting Wednesday of 2021. [Received 26 March 2020]
Product Stewardship Amendment (Packaging and Plastics) Bill 2019—14 May 2020 to second sitting Wednesday of 2021. [Received 26 March 2020]

Environment and Communications References Committee—
Australia’s faunal extinction crisis—from 7 September 2020 to second sitting Wednesday of 2021. [Received 26 March 2020]
Disclosure and reporting of sensitive and classified information—
from 16 March to 20 May 2020. [Received 23 March 2020]
from 20 May 2020 to second sitting Wednesday of 2021. [Received 26 March 2020]
Impact of feral deer, pigs and goats in Australia—from 16 June 2020 second sitting Wednesday of 2021. [Received 26 March 2020]
Impact of seismic testing on fisheries and the marine environment—from 14 May 2020 to second sitting Wednesday of 2021. [Received 26 March 2020]

Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee—
Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Donation Reform and Other Measures) Bill 2020—from 30 June to 25 September 2020. [Received 23 March 2020]
Intelligence and Security Legislation Amendment (Implementing Independent Intelligence Review) Bill 2020—from 25 June to 14 October 2020. [Received 23 March 2020]

National Integrity (Parliamentary Standards) Bill 2019—from 16 April to 12 August 2020. [Received 23 March 2020]

Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Amendment (Tax Transparency in Procurement and Grants) Bill 2019—from 21 April to 4 September 2020. [Received 23 March 2020]

National Broadband Network—Joint Standing Committee—Business case for the NBN and the experiences of small businesses—from 22 July 2020 to 22 January 2021. [Received 25 March 2020]

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee—Native Title Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 [Provisions]—from 16 April to 19 August 2020. [Received 26 March 2020]

Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee—Nationhood, national identity and democracy—from the last sitting day in May 2020 to 9 September 2020. [Received 23 March 2020]

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.]

A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999—

Child Care Subsidy Amendment (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Minister’s Rules 2020 [F2020L00295].

Child Care Subsidy Amendment (Coronavirus Response Measures No. 2) Minister’s Rules 2020 [F2020L00406].


Aged Care Act 1997—Aged Care (Subsidy, Fees and Payments) Amendment (Workforce Continuity Funding) Determination 2020 [F2020L00352].


Appropriation (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act (No. 2) 2019-2020—
Advance to the Finance Minister Determination (No. 3 of 2019-2020) [F2020L00402].


Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act 1997—

Banking Act 1959—Banking (BEAR) determination No. 1 of 2020 [F2020L00347].

Biosecurity Act 2015—
Biosecurity (Exit Requirements) Amendment (Nauru) Determination 2020 [F2020L00388].
Biosecurity (Exit Requirements) Determination 2020 [F2020L00323].
Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Emergency Requirements) Amendment Determination (No. 1) 2020 [F2020L00339].
Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Overseas Travel Ban Emergency Requirements) Determination 2020 [F2020L00306].
Biosecurity (Human Health Response Zone) (Swissotel Sydney) Determination 2020 [F2020L00313].


Civil Aviation Act 1988—Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998—
Engine Compressor Module – Removal from Service—AD/AL 250/91 Amdt 1 [F2020L00287].
Licensing, and Operator Training and Checking (Extensions of Time Due to COVID-19) Exemptions Instrument 2020—CASA EX57/20 [F2020L00337].
Manual of Standards (MOS) – Part 139 Aerodromes Amendment Instrument 2020 (No. 1) [F2020L00301].
Part 101 Manual of Standards (Extensions of Time Due to COVID-19) Amendment Instrument 2020 (No. 1) [F2020L00394].
Commissioner of Taxation—Public Rulings—
Product Rulings PR 2020/1 and PR 2020/2.
Taxation Determinations—
TD 2020/2-TD 2020/4.
Taxation Rulings—
TR 2020/1.

Commonwealth Inscribed Stock Act 1911—Commonwealth Inscribed Stock (Maximum Total Face Value of Stock and Securities) Direction 2020 [F2020L00290].

Coronavirus Economic Response Package Omnibus Act 2020—

Corporations Act 2001—
Accounting Standard AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities – March 2020 [F2020L00288].
Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current—AASB 2020-1 [F2020L00283].
ASIC Corporations (Amendment) Instrument 2020/149 [F2020L00289].
ASIC Corporations (Amendment) Instrument 2020/242 [F2020L00332].
ASIC Corporations (Amendment) Instrument 2020/290 [F2020L00376].
ASIC Corporations (Trading Suspensions Relief) Instrument 2020/289 [F2020L00377].

Customs Act 1901—
  Customs (Prohibited Imports) Amendment (Firearms) Regulations 2020 [F2020L00293].
  Customs (Prohibited Imports) Amendment (Tablet Presses, Encapsulators and Other Measures) Regulations 2020 [F2020L00399].


Federal Financial Relations Act 2009—

Financial Framework (Supplementary Powers) Act 1997—
  Financial Framework (Supplementary Powers) Amendment (Health Measures No. 2) Regulations 2020 [F2020L00392].
  Financial Framework (Supplementary Powers) Amendment (Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications Measures No. 3) Regulations 2020 [F2020L00384].
  Financial Framework (Supplementary Powers) Amendment (Social Services Measures No. 1) Regulations 2020 [F2020L00385].

Financial Sector (Collection of Data) Act 2001—
  Financial Sector (Collection of Data) (reporting standard) determination No. 2 of 2020 [F2020L00327].
  Financial Sector (Collection of Data) (reporting standard) determination No. 3 of 2020 [F2020L00328].

Fisheries Management Act 1991—
  Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery Management Plan 2006—
    Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery (Total Allowable Catch) Determination 2020 [F2020L00286].
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery (Total Allowable Catch) Determination No. 2 2020 [F2020L00374].

Small Pelagic Fishery Management Plan 2009—
Small Pelagic Fishery (Overcatch and Undercatch) Determination 2020 [F2020L00285].
Small Pelagic Fishery (Total Allowable Catch) Determination 2020 [F2020L00284].

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan 2003—
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (Overcatch and Undercatch) Determination 2020 [F2020L00302].
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (Total Allowable Catch for Non-Quota Species) Determination 2020 [F2020L00300].
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (Total Allowable Catch for Quota Species) Determination 2020 [F2020L00299].


Health Insurance Act 1973—
Health Insurance (Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation – Approved Accreditors) Instrument 2020 [F2020L00370].
Health Insurance (Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation) Instrument 2020 [F2020L00351].
Health Insurance Legislation Amendment (Bulk-billing Incentive) Regulations 2020 [F2020L00341].
Health Insurance (Section 3C Co-Dependent Pathology Services) Amendment Determination (No. 1) 2020 [F2020L00304].
Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – Application of GP and Allied Health COVID-19 Services and Specialist, Consultant Physician and Consultant Psychiatrist COVID-19 Telehealth Services) Amendment Determination 2020 [F2020L00298].
Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – COVID-19 Services) Determination 2020 [F2020L00292].
Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – COVID-19 Telehealth and Telephone Attendances) Amendment (Bulk-billing) Determination 2020 [F2020L00404].
Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – COVID-19 Telehealth and Telephone Attendances) Amendment (Expansion of Specialist Services) Determination 2020 [F2020L00405].
Health Insurance (Section 3C General Medical Services – COVID-19 Telehealth and Telephone Attendances) Determination 2020 [F2020L00342].
Health Insurance (Section 3C Pathology Services – COVID-19) Amendment (No. 2) Determination 2020 [F2020L00373].


Legislation Act 2003—


Legislation (Deferral of Sunsetting—Australian Postal Corporation Regulations) Amendment Certificate 2020 [F2020L00317].


Legislation (Deferral of Sunsetting—Bankruptcy Regulations) Amendment Certificate 2020 [F2020L00334].


Legislation (Deferral of Sunsetting—Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation (Notice of Declarations and Specifications)) Amendment Certificate 2020 [F2020L00315].

Legislation (Deferral of Sunsetting—Student Assistance Regulations) Certificate 2020 [F2020L00322].


Medical Indemnity Act 2002—Medical Indemnity Amendment (Eligible Run-off Claims) Regulations 2020 [F2020L00363].

Migration Act 1958—Migration Regulations 1994—
  Migration (LIN 20/049: Arrangements for child visa applications) Amendment Instrument 2020 [F2020L00349].
  Migration (LIN 20/122: COVID-19 Pandemic event for Subclass 408 (Temporary Activity) visa and visa application charge for Temporary Activity (Class GG) visa) Instrument 2020 [F2020L00409].


National Health Act 1953—
  National Health (Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy) Special Arrangement Instrument 2020 (No. 3)—PB 25 of 2020 [F2020L00364].
  National Health (Highly specialised drugs program) Special Arrangement Amendment (Authorised Nurse Practitioners) Instrument 2020—PB 26 of 2020 [F2020L00366].
  National Health (Highly specialised drugs program) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2020 (No. 3)—PB 24 of 2020 [F2020L00356].
  National Health (Listed drugs on F1 or F2) Amendment Determination 2020 (No. 3)—PB 26 of 2020 [F2020L00357].
  National Health (Listing of Pharmaceutical Benefits) Amendment Instrument 2020 (No. 3)—PB 20 of 2020 [F2020L00365].
  National Health (Originator Brand) Amendment Determination 2020 (No. 2)—PB 27 of 2020 [F2020L00362].
National Health (Price and Special Patient Contribution) Amendment Determination 2020 (No. 2)—PB 30 of 2020 [F2020L00360].


National Rental Affordability Scheme Act 2008—National Rental Affordability Scheme Regulations 2020 [F2020L00282].


Private Health Insurance Act 2007—
  Private Health Insurance (Incentives) Amendment Rules (No. 1) 2020 [F2020L00354].
  Private Health Insurance (Prostheses) Amendment Rules (No. 2) 2020 [F2020L00410].


Public Service Act 1999—Prime Minister’s direction under subsection 21(1) – 2020 (No. 1) [F2020L00326].

Regional Investment Corporation Act 2018—Regional Investment Corporation (Drought Loans Expansion) Rule 2020 [F2020L00329].


Social Security (Administration) Act 1999—


Sydney Airport Demand Management Act 1997—Minister’s Direction to the Slot Manager 2020 (No. 2).

Telecommunications Act 1997—
  Telecommunications Code of Practice (Temporary Facilities) Amendment Determination 2020 [F2020L00378].
  Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) (Temporary Facilities) Amendment Determination 2020 [F2020L00379].

Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Charges) Act 1997—Telecommunications (Carrier Licence Charges) (Paragraph 15(1)(d)) Determination 2020 (No. 1) [F2020L00280].

Therapeutic Goods Act 1989—
  Poisons Standard Amendment (Hydroxychloroquine and Salbutamol) Instrument 2020 [F2020L00291].
  Poisons Standard Amendment (Hydroxychloroquine) Instrument 2020 [F2020L00387].
  Therapeutic Goods (Guidelines for Multi-Site Licences) Instrument 2020 [F2020L00369].


4 Hours of meeting and routine of business—Variation

The Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann), by leave, moved—That the hours of meeting for today be 1.55 pm to adjournment and the routine of business be as follows:

(a) notices of motion;
(b) placing of business;
(c) ministerial statements;
(d) questions;
(e) motions to take note of answers;
(f) a motion relating to the establishment of a select committee on COVID-19;
(g) consideration of the following bills:
   Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Bill 2020
   Coronavirus Economic Response Package Omnibus (Measures No. 2) Bill 2020
   Appropriation Bill (No. 5) 2019-2020
   Appropriation Bill (No. 6) 2019-2020
(h) committee membership;
(i) a motion relating to the next meeting of the Senate and leave of absence for all senators; and
(j) adjournment without debate.

Question put and passed.

5 Notices

Senator Siewert: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—
(a) expresses its ongoing support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse;
(b) acknowledges the pain and suffering of survivors of child sexual abuse;
(c) expresses its ongoing support for survivors of child sexual abuse; and
(d) encourages survivors to keep coming forward. (general business notice of motion no. 529)

Senators Whish-Wilson and Waters: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—
(a) notes that:
   (i) on 7 April 2020, the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies released key findings from their aerial surveys of the Great Barrier Reef confirming that:
      (A) the Great Barrier Reef has just experienced its fifth mass coral bleaching – the third in five years, and
      (B) one quarter of reefs within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park experienced severe coral bleaching over the past summer;
   (ii) the recorded bleaching is the most widespread bleaching event on record having, for the first time, struck all three regions of the Great Barrier Reef – the northern, central and now the southern sectors,
   (iii) the Great Barrier Reef supports approximately 64,000 jobs and generates $6.4 billion for the Australian economy annually,
   (iv) United Nations scientific reports have confirmed that if global temperature rises by 1.5°C, 90 % of coral in the Great Barrier Reef will be lost, and if global temperature reaches 2.0°C, 100 % of coral will be lost, and
   (v) without urgent action to reduce global emissions of greenhouse gases, the Great Barrier Reef will continue to suffer; and
(b) calls on the Federal Government to:

(i) implement a climate policy that accelerates actions to limit global warming to 1.5°C, and

(ii) take all necessary action to avoid the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage Committee needing to place the Great Barrier Reef on the World Heritage In Danger List (general business notice of motion no. 530)

*Intention to withdraw:* The Chair of the Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation (Senator Fierravanti-Wells), pursuant to standing order 78, gave notice of her intention, at the giving of notices on the next day of sitting, to withdraw business of the Senate notice of motion no. 1 standing in her name for two sitting days after today for the disallowance of the Taxation Administration (Private Ancillary Fund) Guidelines 2019 [F2019L01227].

6 **Leave of absence**

Senator Dean Smith, by leave, moved—That leave of absence be granted to the following senators for today for personal, health and other reasons: Senators Abetz, Antic, Askew, Bragg, Canavan, Chandler, Fawcett, Griff, Hanson, Henderson, Hughes, Lambie, McDonald, McLachlan, McMahon, O'Sullivan, Rennick, Stoker, and Van.

Question put and passed.

Senator Urquhart, by leave, moved—That leave of absence be granted to the following senators for today: Senators Ayres, Bilyk, Brown, Carr, Dodson, Farrell, Gallacher, Green, McCarthy, O’Neill, Polley, Pratt, Marielle Smith, and Sterle.

Question put and passed.

Senator Siewert, by leave, moved—That leave of absence be granted to the following senators for today: Senators Di Natale, Faruqi, Hanson-Young, McKim, Rice, and Steele-John.

Question put and passed.

7 **Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic—Statements by leave**

The Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann), the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wong), the Leader of the Australian Greens in the Senate (Senator Waters), the Leader of The Nationals in the Senate (Senator McKenzie), and Senators Patrick and Roberts, by leave, made statements relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the Government’s response.

8 **Questions**

Questions without notice were answered.

9 **Motions to take note of answers**

Senator Kitching moved—That the Senate take note of the answers given by ministers to questions without notice asked by Opposition senators today relating to the Government’s response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.
The Leader of the Australian Greens in the Senate (Senator Waters) 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 Waters today relating to the Government’s response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Question put and passed.

10 COVID-19—Select Committee—Appointment

Senator Gallagher, moved—

(1) That a select committee, to be known as the Select Committee on COVID-19, be established to inquire into and report on:

(a) the Australian Government’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

(b) any related matters.

(2) That the committee present its final report on or before 30 June 2022.

(3) That the committee consist of 7 senators, as follows:

(a) 3 nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate;

(b) 2 nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate;

(c) 1 nominated by the Leader of the Australian Greens; and

(d) Senator Jacqui Lambie.

(4) That:

(a) participating members may be appointed to the committee on the nomination of the Leader of the Government in the Senate, the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate or any minority party or independent senator; and

(b) participating members may participate in hearings of evidence and deliberations of the committee, and have all the rights of members of the committee, but may not vote on any questions before the committee; and

(c) a participating member shall be taken to be a member of a committee for the purpose of forming a quorum of the committee if a majority of members of the committee is not present.

(5) That the committee may proceed to the dispatch of business notwithstanding that not all members have been duly nominated and appointed and notwithstanding any vacancy.

(6) That the committee elect as chair one of the members nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and as deputy chair a member nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate.

(7) That the deputy chair shall act as chair when the chair is absent from a meeting of the committee or the position of chair is temporarily vacant.

(8) That, in the event of an equality of voting, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, have a casting vote.
(9) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members, and to refer to any such subcommittee any of the matters which the committee is empowered to consider.

(10) That the committee and any subcommittee have power to send for and examine persons and documents, to move from place to place, to sit in public or in private, notwithstanding any prorogation of the Parliament or dissolution of the House of Representatives, and have leave to report from time to time its proceedings and the evidence taken and such interim recommendations as it may deem fit.

(11) That the committee be provided with all necessary staff, facilities and resources and be empowered to appoint persons with specialist knowledge for the purposes of the committee with the approval of the President.

(12) That the committee be empowered to print from day to day such papers and evidence as may be ordered by it, and a daily Hansard be published of such proceedings as take place in public.

Debate ensued.
The Leader of the Australian Greens in the Senate (Senator Waters) moved the following amendment:

Omit all words after “That”, substitute:

(1) Joint select committees be established, to be known as:

(a) the Joint Select Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic Health Response; and

(b) the Joint Select Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic Economic Response.

(2) The Joint Select Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic Health Response inquire into and report on:

(a) the measures taken by the Government to address the health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;

(b) the operation and administration of:

(i) the National Cabinet;

(ii) the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee;

(iii) the Office of the Chief Medical Officer;

(iv) other entities and individuals advising the above;

(c) such other matters in relation to the Government’s response to the health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as may be referred to it by either House of the Parliament; and

(d) any related matters.

(3) The Joint Select Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic Economic Response inquire into and report on:

(a) the measures taken by the Government to address the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;
(b) the operation and administration of:
   (i) the National Cabinet;
   (ii) the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission;
   (iii) other entities and individuals advising the above;
(c) such other matters in relation to the Government’s response to the
economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as may be referred to it by
either House of the Parliament; and
(d) any related matters.

(4) Each committee present an interim report by 31 May 2021.
(5) Each committee present its final report by the last sitting day in May 2022.
(6) Each committee consist of 11 members as follows:
   (a) 2 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the
        Government Whip or Whips;
   (b) 2 Senators to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips;
   (c) 2 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the
        Opposition Whip or Whips;
   (d) 1 Senator to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips;
   (e) 1 Member of the House of Representatives or Senator to be nominated by
        the Leader of the Australian Greens;
   (f) 2 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by any
        minority group or independent; and
   (g) 1 Senator to be nominated by any minority group or independent.

(7) In relation to the Joint Select Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic Health
Response, members and senators appointed to the committee must be those with
backgrounds in the following fields:
   (a) medicine;
   (b) nursing;
   (c) mental health;
   (d) health policy;
   (e) health administration;
   (f) public health;
   (g) allied health;
   (h) aged care;
   (i) disability services; and
   (j) science and research.
(8) If the House of the respective member to be appointed is not sitting and that House is not expected to meet for at least one week:

(a) members may be appointed to or discharged from either committee by nomination in writing to the President and the Speaker, with such change in membership to take effect from the time either presiding officer receives the written notification; and

(b) at the next sitting, the President and the Speaker shall report the change to their respective House.

(9) If the House of the respective member to be appointed is sitting, every nomination of a member of either committee be notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(10) The members of each committee hold office as a joint select committee until the House of Representatives is dissolved or expires by effluxion of time.

(11) Each committee elect as chair an Opposition, minority group or independent member of either House.

(12) Each committee elect as deputy chair a Government member of either House.

(13) In relation to each committee, in the event of an equally divided vote, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, shall have a casting vote.

(14) In relation to each committee, the deputy chair shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.

(15) In relation to each committee, three members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall include one Government member of either House and one non-Government member of either House.

(16) Each committee:

(a) have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of three or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine; and

(b) appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only.

(17) A subcommittee of either committee shall have at least one Government member of either House and one non-Government member of either House.

(18) At any time when the chair of a subcommittee of either committee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee, the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting.

(19) Two members of a subcommittee of either committee constitute a quorum of that subcommittee, provided that in a deliberative meeting the quorum shall comprise one Government member of either House and one non-Government member of either House;
(20) Members of a committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.

(21) Each committee or any subcommittee of that committee have power to:
(a) call for witnesses to attend and for documents to be produced;
(b) conduct proceedings at any place it sees fit;
(c) sit in public or in private;
(d) report from time to time; and
(e) adjourn from time to time and sit during any adjournment of the House of Representatives and the Senate;

(22) The provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders; and

(23) A message be sent to the House of Representatives seeking its concurrence in this resolution.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put and negatived. All Australian Greens and Centre Alliance senators, by leave, recorded their votes for the ayes.

Main question put and passed.

Suspension of sitting: On the motion of the Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann) the sitting of the Senate was suspended at 4.35 pm till the ringing of the bells.

11 Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Bill 2020
Coronavirus Economic Response Package Omnibus (Measures No. 2) Bill 2020
Appropriation Bill (No. 5) 2019-2020
Appropriation Bill (No. 6) 2019-2020

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

Message no. 193, dated 8 April 2020—
A Bill for an Act to provide an economic response, and deal with other matters, relating to the Coronavirus, and for related purposes;
A Bill for an Act to provide an economic response, and deal with other matters, relating to the coronavirus, and for other purpose;
A Bill for an Act to appropriate additional money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the ordinary annual services of the Government, and for related purposes; and
A Bill for an Act to appropriate additional money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for certain expenditure, and for related purposes.

The Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann) 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 Cormann moved—That these bills be now read a second time.

Senator Gallagher moved the following amendment:

At the end of the motion, add “, but the Senate:

(a) notes that this legislation gives the Treasurer extraordinary powers to include those not currently eligible for the JobKeeper Payment; and

(b) calls on the Treasurer to use his power under this legislation to ensure more jobs are protected and that struggling, otherwise viable businesses and organisations are able to access the JobKeeper Payment”.

Debate ensued.

Document: Senator Siewert, by leave, tabled the following document:

Asylum seekers—COVID-19—Petitioning document from 20,528 signatories calling on the Parliament to include people seeking asylum in the Job Keeper, Job Seeker and Medicare Safety Net packages.

Debate continued.

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

The Leader of the Australian Greens in the Senate (Senator Waters) moved the following amendment:

At the end of the motion, add “, but the Senate:

(a) notes that the Government’s proposed eligibility rules for the JobKeeper payment exclude millions of workers; and

(b) calls on the Government to extend access to the JobKeeper payment to everyone who needs it, including:

(i) over 1 million casual workers who have worked for their current employer for less than 12 months,

(ii) everyone who relies on insecure, short-term, contract and gig-economy work,

(iii) people on temporary visas, including work, skilled, protection, student, and non-protected special category visas, many of whom are also ineligible for Medicare,

(iv) universities and their highly insecure and casualised workforces who are crucial to our recovery from this crisis and deserve full access to JobKeeper, and

(v) charities that largely rely on government grants and specific purpose funding and will not meet the 15 per cent threshold as a result”.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 13

Senators—

Ciccone Lines Siewert Waters
Gallagher Patrick Urquhart* Whish-Wilson
Keneally Sheldon Walsh Wong
Kitching

NOES, 21

Senators—

Birmingham Duniam Molan Ruston
Brockman Fieravanti-Wells Paterson Ryan
Cash Hume Payne Scarr
Colbeck McGrath Reynolds Seselja
Cormann McKenzie Roberts Smith, Dean*
Davey

*Tellers

Question negatived.

Senator Keneally moved the following amendment:

At the end of the motion, add “, but the Senate:

(a) notes that:

(i) during the coronavirus crisis, if someone living in Australia needs support, they should be able to access it,

(ii) the Government has extended the jobkeeper payment to 444 visa holders on the basis that these visa holders have a long connection with their employers,

(iii) many other visa holders have equally long connections with their employers, but their employers will not be able to claim the jobkeeper payment for these employees,

(iv) the package of bills before the Senate will give the Treasurer the power to extend the jobkeeper payment to any visa holder,

(v) this is an important power given the current environment, and one that is supported by the Labor Party,

(vi) the Minister for Families and Social Services has similar powers to expand the jobseeker payment to other categories of people, including various types of visa holders, but the Minister has not exercised these powers in relation to temporary visa holders to date,

(vii) Labor supports the Government’s position that if a temporary migrant worker can go home, they should. However, many temporary migrants are now trapped in Australia by border closures and the shutdown of international flights,

(viii) where migrants cannot go home, the Government must ensure temporary visa holders are not getting sick or falling through the cracks, and
(ix) the lack of support for temporary migrants trapped in Australia is a serious public health and economic issue for all Australians; and

(b) calls on the Government to use these powers to provide appropriate support to everyone living in Australia during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 13

Senators—
Ciccone
Gallagher
Keneally
Kitching

Lines
Patrick
Sheldon

Siewert
Urquhart*
Walsh

Waters
Whish-Wilson

NOES, 21

Senators—
Birmingham
Brockman
Cash
Colbeck
Cormann
Davey

Duniam
Fierravanti-Wells
Hume
McGrath
McKenzie

Molan
Paterson
Payne
Reynolds
Roberts

Molan
Ryan
Scarr
Seselja
Smith, Dean*

Gallagher
Patrick
Siewert

Urquhart*
Walsh

Wong
Whish-Wilson

Keneally
Sheldon

Kitching

* Tellers

Question negatived.

Senator Walsh moved the following amendment:

At the end of the motion, add “, but the Senate:

(a) notes that casual workers deserve to be treated with the same respect as every other worker who faces losing their job because of this pandemic; and

(b) calls on the Government to provide the JobKeeper payment to the 1.1 million casual workers who have worked for their employer for less than a year”.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 13

Senators—
Ciccone
Gallagher
Keneally
Kitching

McAllister
Patrick
Siewert

Urquhart*
Walsh

Waters
Whish-Wilson

NOES, 21

Senators—
Birmingham
Brockman
Cash
Colbeck
Cormann
Davey

Duniam
Fierravanti-Wells
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Reynolds
Roberts

Molan
Ryan
Scarr
Seselja
Smith, Dean*

Gallagher
Patrick
Siewert

Urquhart*
Walsh

Wong
Whish-Wilson

Keneally
Sheldon

Kitching

* Tellers

Question negatived.
Senator Siewert moved the following amendment:

At the end of the motion, add “, but the Senate:

(a) is of the opinion that the Government’s response to COVID-19 continues to see large sections of our population left behind and disproportionately affected by this health and economic crisis;

(b) calls on the Government to:

(i) provide proper support to at least the following groups:

(A) Disability Support Pension recipients, carers, and age pensioners who receive Commonwealth Rent Assistance, none of whom will be eligible for the $550 a fortnight COVID-19 supplement and will be trapped beneath the poverty line,

(B) First Nations peoples who are at severe risk of harm from COVID-19 and urgently need adequate personal protective equipment and access to safe housing,

(C) disabled people, who must have guaranteed continuity of essential disability supports, and have equal access to healthcare to ensure their human rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities are upheld,

(D) those for whom isolation presents a heightened risk of domestic and family violence,

(E) people in Australia who are not Australian citizens or permanent residents, including asylum seekers on temporary protection visas, people who hold temporary work or skilled visas, international students, people who hold working holiday visas, tourists, New Zealand citizens on non-protected Special Category Visas, and permanent resident applicants backlogged in processing queues who do not all have access to work, income support, or Medicare,

(F) LGBTIQ+ people who experience poorer mental health outcomes, and experience discrimination in accessing crisis services,

(G) regional and remote communities who have poorer health outcomes and limited access to basic health services,

(H) people experiencing homelessness, and people facing rental and mortgage stress, who still are yet to see any solution to the homelessness, residential rent and mortgage crisis, and

(I) local government employees, who provide essential community services such as childcare, health facilities, and libraries, and have been left out of JobKeeper,

(ii) enable people to work from home and to maintain social connection by ensuring that no one is cut off from internet services including the NBN,
(iii) provide much needed extra financial support to specialist frontline domestic and family violence support services and crisis accommodation to meet additional demand during this crisis,

(iv) provide much needed extra financial support to those industries hardest hit, including tourism, hospitality, and the arts and entertainment sector,

(v) reverse funding cuts and lifts the freeze on indexation imposed on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation so that it can deliver timely, accurate and reliable advice to the public during this period,

(vi) guarantee that mutual obligation requirements will continue to be suspended until the crisis is over to protect the health and safety of all people on income support payments and employment service providers,

(vii) permanently increase the Jobseeker Payment, Youth Allowance, AUSTUDY and ABSTUDY after the crisis is over to ensure people on income support payments are not dropped below the poverty line,

(viii) look to repay debts to robodebt victims once the crisis is over,

(ix) ensure Centrelink has adequate IT infrastructure and capacity and is appropriately staffed to guarantee Australians can get quick and efficient access to Centrelink, and

(x) immediately ensure eviction bans are enshrined in law right across the country so that renters have security, as well as giving rent holidays to those who need them; and

(c) is of the opinion that given the gaps already identified in the Government response to COVID-19, some of which the Government has subsequently fixed in response to community and parliamentary pressure, that proper and comprehensive parliamentary oversight of the Government response to COVID-19 is necessary to ensure that no one is left behind”.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 4

Senators—

Patrick Siewert* Waters Whish-Wilson

NOES, 29

Senators—

Birmingham Fieravanti-Wells McKenzie Ryan

Brockman Gallagher Molan Scarr

Cash Hume Paterson Seselja

Ciccone Keneally Payne Smith, Dean

Colbeck Kitching Reynolds Urquhart*

Cormann Lines Roberts Walsh

Davey McGrath Ruston Wong

Duniam

* Tellers

Question negatived.
Senator Sheldon moved the following amendment:

At the end of the motion, add “, but the Senate calls on the Government to:

(a) ensure that the JobKeeper wage subsidy is only used by employers to pay their employees’ wages and not to subsidise their company’s balance sheet, noting that there should be no provision for business to force employees to use their annual leave entitlements and pay for that leave with the JobKeeper wage subsidy;

(b) recognise that the Australian arts and entertainment sector needs a specific, tailored, fiscal response package to ensure its ongoing viability, given the structure of the JobKeeper payment has been designed in a way that leaves many workers in the sector ineligible;

(c) extend the 15 per cent reduction in turnover threshold to all National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and Disability Employment Services (DES) providers, and deliver a retention and support package for the disability sector workforce;

(d) provide much more support for staff in schools, TAFEs, and universities affected by this crisis, noting that:
   (i) hundreds of thousands of school and university staff, including casual workers, are facing job losses, but will not be eligible for this JobKeeper payment, and
   (ii) the Government should be saving jobs and making sure Australia has a strong and sustainable education and training sector on the other side of this crisis;

(e) recognise the importance of local government, acknowledging that the closure of council facilities has resulted in significant revenue loss and workers being stood down and that without support, up to 45,000 local government workers could lose their jobs, demonstrating the need for the Government to work together with state governments to address these important issues; and

(f) note that a number of major charities will be unable to access the JobKeeper program, and will have to shed staff and cease programs as a result”.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 13

Senators—

  Ciccone  Lines  Siewert  Waters
  Gallagher  Patrick  Urquhart*  Whish-Wilson
  Keneally  Sheldon  Walsh  Wong
  Kitching
Question negatived.

Senator Whish-Wilson, at the request of Senator Hanson-Young, moved the following amendment:

At the end of the motion, add “, but the Senate:

(a) is of the opinion that the arts, entertainment, creative and events industries, and hospitality and tourism industries have been severely hit by this crisis and are not getting adequate support from this package;

(b) calls on the Treasurer to ensure the following categories of businesses and workers are able to access the JobKeeper Program:

   (i) casual workers who have not been with the same employer for 12 months,
   (ii) freelance performers, content creators, and crew who are engaged as direct employees on short-term contracts on a project by project basis but are not registered as a business,
   (iii) businesses that do not have a consistent stream of linear revenue across the year, such as those working on screen and stage productions, festivals and events, and therefore the revenue test is not applicable and should instead be for a comparable period not month, and
   (iv) entities that are established as dedicated Special Purpose Vehicles which is common in the arts, entertainment and events sectors for individual projects, and are unlikely to meet the various tests and requirements therefore excluding many workers; and

(c) is of the opinion that the arts, entertainment and creative industries need a tailored package to provide adequate support immediately and to assist recovery after the crisis, which should include:

   (i) restoring and increasing Australia Council funding to expand access for individuals and organisations to access grants,
   (ii) establish a Content Creator Fund for the production of local content to support high quality local content, our creative industries and, importantly, allow Australians to keep telling their own stories, and
   (iii) local content requirements for broadcast, radio, subscription and streaming services, such as Netflix, Amazon, Stan, Apple and Spotify".
Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.
The Senate divided—

AYES, 13

Senators—
Ciccone
Gallagher
Keneally
Kitching

Lines
McAllister
Patrick

Sheldon
Siewert
Urquhart*

Walsh
Waters
Whish-Wilson

NOES, 21

Senators—
Birmingham
Brockman
Cash
Colbeck
Cormann
Davey

Duniam
F ierravanti-Wells
Hume
McGrath
McKenzie

Molan
Paterson
Payne
Reynolds
Roberts

Ryan
Scarr
Seselja
Smith, Dean*

* Tellers

Question negatived.
Main question, as amended, put and passed.

Bills read a second time.
The Senate resolved itself into committee for the consideration of the bills.

In the committee

Bills, taken together and as a whole by leave, debated.

Senator Siewert moved the following amendments together by leave:

**Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Bill 2020**

Clause 6, page 3 (before line 9), before the definition of *approved form*, insert:

ACNC-registered charity has the meaning given by the A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999.

Clause 7, page 4 (after line 29), at the end of the clause, add:

(3) If the rules make provision for a test of eligibility of an ACNC-registered charity to a payment, the test must:
   (a) exclude funding from a Commonwealth, State or Territory that is provided to the charity for a specific purpose; and
   (b) include income from:
      (i) individualised government funding, such as that provided for the purposes of the Child Care Subsidy or the National Disability Insurance Scheme; and
      (ii) donations; and
      (iii) investments and social enterprises; and
   (c) for the purposes of this subsection, an entity’s turnover is to be assessed for each separate service the entity provides.

Note: An example of an entity providing separate services includes a single entity that provides disability, child care and aged care services.

(4) Subsection (3) does not limit subsections (1) or (2).
Question—That the amendments be agreed to—put and negatived. All Australian Greens and Centre Alliance senators, by leave, recorded their votes for the ayes.

Senator Siewert moved the following request for an amendment:

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

**Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Bill 2020**

Clause 7, page 4 (after line 29), at the end of clause 7, add:

(3) In determining the entitlement of an entity to a payment for an employee of the entity, the rules must provide that the types of employee that an entity is entitled to receive a payment in respect of include an individual that on 1 March 2020 was an employee of the entity and was the holder of a temporary visa within the meaning of the *Migration Act 1958*.

Question—That the requests be agreed to—put and negatived. All Australian Greens and Centre Alliance senators, by leave, recorded their votes for the ayes.

Senator Siewert moved the following request for an amendment:

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

**Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Bill 2020**

Clause 7, page 4 (after line 29), at the end of clause 7, add:

(3) In determining the entitlement of an entity to a payment for an employee of the entity, the rules must provide that the types of employee that an entity is entitled to receive a payment in respect of include an employee of the entity who satisfies the requirements in subsection (4), regardless of the period of time that the individual has been employed by the entity.

*Casual employee requirements*

(4) The requirements are that:

(a) the individual was a casual employee of the entity on 1 March 2020; and

(b) it is reasonable to assume that the individual would have continued to be an employee of the entity if the entity had not been directly or indirectly affected by the Coronavirus known as COVID-19.

Question—That the request be agreed to—put.

The committee divided—

**AYES, 4**

**Senators—**

Patrick Siewert* Waters Whish-Wilson
NOES, 24

 Senators—

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* Tellers

Question negatived.

Senator Patrick moved the following request for an amendment:

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

**Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Bill 2020**

Page 4 (after line 29), after clause 7, insert:

1. **Requirements for rules that provide for jobkeeper payments scheme—payments for certain visa holders**

   (1) If the rules provide for a kind of payment that is intended to assist businesses affected by the Coronavirus to cover the cost of wages of their employees (whether known as a jobkeeper payment or otherwise), the rules relating to that kind of payment (the **jobkeeper scheme rules**) must comply with the requirements in this section.

   **Scheme to extend to certain visa holders**

   (2) The jobkeeper scheme rules must, in providing for the classes of employees in respect of which the payments are to be made, include a class of individuals that satisfy all of the following:

      (a) the individual was, on 1 March 2020, a resident of Australia for the purposes of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936*;

      (b) the individual holds a visa that allows the individual to work in Australia;

      (c) the individual was an employee of an entity on 1 March 2020, and the employment was in accordance with the conditions of the visa;

      (d) for the periods in respect of which a payment is to be made in relation to the individual, the individual is an employee of the entity in accordance with the conditions of the visa.

   **Rules must not have effect of circumventing requirements in this section**

   (3) Subsection (2) does not limit the jobkeeper scheme rules from providing for or in relation to other classes of employees, or providing for further eligibility or other requirements in relation to the class of employees referred to in subsection (2).

   (4) However, the jobkeeper scheme rules must not impose requirements in relation to the class of employees referred to in subsection (2) that:

      (a) would have the effect of making it impractical or unlikely that a payment could be made in respect of an employee in that class; or

      (b) would be substantially different from the requirements imposed in relation to other classes of employees.
Question—That the request be agreed to—put.

The committee divided—

**AYES, 4**

Senators—

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**NOES, 22**

Senators—

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* Tellers

Question negatived.

The Leader of the Australian Greens in the Senate (Senator Waters) moved the following request for an amendment:

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

**Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Bill 2020**

Page 4 (after line 29), after clause 7, insert:

**7A Requirements for rules that provide for jobkeeper payments scheme**

1. If the rules provide for a kind of payment that is intended to assist businesses affected by the Coronavirus to cover the cost of wages of their employees (whether known as a jobkeeper payment or otherwise), the rules relating to that kind of payment (the **jobkeeper scheme rules**) must comply with the requirements in this section.

   * **Scheme to extend to workers with intermittent periods of service**

2. The jobkeeper scheme rules must, in providing for the classes of employees in respect of which the payments are to be made, include a class of individuals who were employed by an entity at any time in the 12 months prior to 1 March 2020 and whom the entity certifies in writing that it intended to reemploy, had the entity not been impacted by the Coronavirus known as COVID-19.

   * **Scheme to extend to workers whose employment had not commenced on 1 March 2020**

3. The jobkeeper scheme rules must, in providing for the classes of employees in respect of which the payments are to be made, include a class of individuals who were not employed by an entity at any time in the 12 months prior to 1 March 2020, but for whom the entity had entered into arrangements prior to 1 March 2020 to commence employment.

   * **Scheme to extend to intermittent workers**

4. The jobkeeper scheme rules must provide that an entity in respect of which the payments are to be made includes an individual who satisfies all of the following requirements:

   a. the individual received a gross income of at least:
      i. $29,000 in the last 12 months prior to 1 March 2020; or
      ii. $7,250 in any 3 month period in the 12 months prior to 1 March 2020; or
(iii) $1,115 per fortnight for any 10 fortights in the 12 months prior to 1 March 2020; and
(b) the individual is not in receipt of another payment under the jobkeeper scheme rules; and
(c) the individual was either:
   (i) not employed on 1 March 2020; or
   (ii) employed on 1 March 2020 by an entity that is not claiming a payment
        under the jobkeeper scheme rules in respect of that individual.

Question—That the request be agreed to—put and negatived. All Australian Greens and Centre Alliance senators, by leave, recorded their votes for the ayes.

Senator Patrick moved the following request for an amendment:

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

**Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Bill 2020**

Page 4 (before line 30), before clause 8, insert:

7B Requirements for rules that provide for jobkeeper payments scheme—payments for certain casual employees

(1) If the rules provide for a kind of payment that is intended to assist businesses affected by the Coronavirus to cover the cost of wages of their employees (whether known as a jobkeeper payment or otherwise), the rules relating to that kind of payment (the *jobkeeper scheme rules*) must comply with the requirements in this section.

    Scheme to extend to certain casual employees

(2) The jobkeeper scheme rules must, in providing for the classes of employees in respect of which the payments are to be made, include a class of individuals that satisfy all of the following requirements on 1 March 2020:

   (a) the individual was aged 16 years or over;
   (b) the individual was a casual employee of an entity;
   (c) the individual has been employed by one or more entities (which may include the entity referred to in paragraph (b)) as a casual employee during the period of 3 months that ended on that day, and during that period the individual worked an average of at least 20 hours per week.

    Rules must not have effect of circumventing requirements in this section

(3) Subsection (2) does not limit the jobkeeper scheme rules from providing for or in relation to other classes of employees, or providing for further eligibility or other requirements in relation to the class of employees referred to in subsection (2).

(4) However, the jobkeeper scheme rules must not impose requirements in relation to the class of employees referred to in subsection (2) that:

   (a) would have the effect of making it impractical or unlikely that a payment could be made in respect of an employee in that class; or
   (b) would be substantially different from the requirements imposed in relation to other classes of employees.

Question—That the request be agreed to—put and negatived. All Australian Greens and Centre Alliance senators, by leave, recorded their votes for the ayes.
Senator Whish-Wilson moved the following amendments together by leave:

**Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Bill 2020**

Page 5 (after line 15), after clause 8, insert:

8A **Timing of paying jobkeeper payments**

(1) If:

(a) the rules provide for a kind of payment that is intended to assist businesses affected by the Coronavirus to cover the cost of wages of their employees (whether known as a jobkeeper payment or otherwise); and

(b) under the rules, the Commissioner is required to pay such a payment to an entity in relation to a fortnight;

the timing of such payments must be in accordance with this section.

(2) For a payment that relates to the first fortnight in respect of which the payments may be made under the rules, the Commissioner must pay the payment no later than the later of:

(a) 14 days after the end of the first fortnight; or

(b) 14 days after the transitional requirements (if any) in the rules, in relation to the Commissioner making the payments for the first fortnight, are met.

(3) For a payment that relates to the second or any subsequent fortnight in respect of which the payments may be made under the rules, the Commissioner must pay the payment no later than 7 days after the end of the fortnight to which the payment relates.

Clause 20, page 16 (after line 17), at the end of the clause, add:

(8) However, in relation to the timing of a payment of the kind referred to in section 8A, the rules may not provide for a longer timeframe than the timeframe provided by that section.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put and negatived. All Australian Greens and Centre Alliance senators, by leave, recorded their votes for the ayes.

The Leader of the Australian Greens in the Senate (Senator Waters) moved the following amendments together by leave:

**Coronavirus Economic Response Package (Payments and Benefits) Bill 2020**

Clause 20, page 15 (line 8), after “rules”, insert “, which must be consistent with the object of this Act,”.

Clause 20, page 15 (after line 22), after subclause (2), insert:

(2A) The rules may not make provision for a payment by the Commonwealth to an entity for the purposes of supporting coal, oil or gas operations conducted by the entity.

(2B) To avoid doubt, the rules may provide that an entity that engages in coal, oil or gas operations is entitled to a payment that is intended to assist the entity to cover the cost of the wages of employees of the entity.

(2C) In this section, coal, oil or gas operations includes any activity undertaken for the purpose of:

(a) exploring for coal, oil or gas; or

(b) mining or producing coal, oil or gas.

Clause 20, page 15 (after line 22), after subclause (2), insert:

(2A) The Treasurer may not make rules under subsection (1) after the end of 10 August 2020.
Question—That the amendments be agreed to—put and negatived. All Australian Greens and Centre Alliance senators, by leave, recorded their votes for the ayes.

Senator Siewert moved the following requests for amendments together by leave:

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

**Coronavirus Economic Response Package Omnibus (Measures No. 2) Bill 2020**

Clause 2, page 2 (after table item 12), insert:

12A. The day after this Act receives the Royal Schedule 6A Assent.

Page 41 (after line 6), after Schedule 6, insert:

**Schedule 6A—Additional support for Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment recipients**

**Social Security Act 1991**

1 At the end of Division 5 of Part 2.3

Add:

121 COVID-19 supplement

(1) If a person is receiving a disability support pension, the rate of the person’s disability support pension is increased by the amount of the COVID-19 supplement. The increase begins on 27 April 2020.

*Cessation of supplement*

(2) This section ceases to apply at the end of:

(a) the period (the *initial period*) of 6 months beginning on 25 March 2020, unless paragraph (b) applies; or

(b) if a period is extended under subsection (3)—the extended period.

(3) The Minister may, by legislative instrument, extend the initial period (or that period as extended one or more times under this subsection) by a period not exceeding 3 months. The Minister must be satisfied that the extension is in response to circumstances relating to the coronavirus known as COVID-19.

*Amount of supplement*

(4) For the period beginning on 27 April 2020 and ending at the end of the initial period, the amount of the COVID-19 supplement per fortnight is:

(a) $550, unless paragraph (b) applies; or

(b) if an amount is determined under subsection (5)—that amount.

(5) The Minister may, by legislative instrument, determine an amount for the purposes of paragraph (4)(b).

(6) For any extension period, the amount of the COVID-19 supplement is to be worked out in accordance with a determination under subsection (7).

(7) The Minister may, by legislative instrument, make a determination for the purposes of subsection (6).

(8) Without limiting subsection (7), the determination may provide that the amount of COVID-19 supplement per fortnight is nil for specified persons.
At the end of Division 4 of Part 2.5
Add:

211 COVID-19 supplement

(1) If a person is receiving carer payment, the rate of the person’s carer payment is increased by the amount of the COVID-19 supplement. The increase begins on 27 April 2020.

Cessation of supplement

(2) This section ceases to apply at the end of:
   (a) the period (the initial period) of 6 months beginning on 25 March 2020, unless paragraph (b) applies; or
   (b) if a period is extended under subsection (3)—the extended period.

(3) The Minister may, by legislative instrument, extend the initial period (or that period as extended one or more times under this subsection) by a period not exceeding 3 months. The Minister must be satisfied that the extension is in response to circumstances relating to the coronavirus known as COVID-19.

Amount of supplement

(4) For the period beginning on 27 April 2020 and ending at the end of the initial period, the amount of the COVID-19 supplement per fortnight is:
   (a) $550, unless paragraph (b) applies; or
   (b) if an amount is determined under subsection (5)—that amount.

(5) The Minister may, by legislative instrument, determine an amount for the purposes of paragraph (4)(b).

(6) For any extension period, the amount of the COVID-19 supplement is to be worked out in accordance with a determination under subsection (7).

(7) The Minister may, by legislative instrument, make a determination for the purposes of subsection (6).

(8) Without limiting subsection (7), the determination may provide that the amount of COVID-19 supplement per fortnight is nil for specified persons.

Clause 2, page 2 (at the end of the table), add:

15. Schedule 8 The day this Act receives the Royal Assent.

Page 43 (after line 4), at the end of the Bill, add:

Schedule 8—Extending jobseeker payments to temporary visa holders

Social Security Act 1991

1 Subparagraph 593(5)(b)(ii)

Repeal the subparagraph, substitute:

(ii) is an Australian resident, exempt from the residence requirement within the meaning of subsection 7(7), or a holder of a temporary visa (within the meaning of the Migration Act 1958); and
Question—That the requests be agreed to—put and negatived. All Australian Greens and Centre Alliance senators, by leave, recorded their votes for the ayes.

Senator Whish-Wilson moved the following amendments together by leave:

**Coronavirus Economic Response Package Omnibus (Measures No. 2) Bill 2020**

Clause 2, page 2 (at the end of the table), add:

15. Schedule 8  The day after this Act receives the Royal Assent.

Page 43 (after line 4), at the end of the Bill, add:

**Schedule 8—Additional support for frontline workers**

**Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988**

1 At the end of section 7

Add:

(11) If an employee:

(a) is employed as a frontline worker; and
(b) suffers from the disease known as COVID-19; and
(c) performed work in their employment on one or more of the 21 days preceding the contraction of COVID-19;

the employment is, for the purposes of this Act, taken to have contributed, to a significant degree, to the contraction of COVID-19, unless the contrary is established.

(12) For the purposes of subsection (11), an employee is a **frontline worker** if the employee is:

(a) a healthcare practitioner who is registered or licensed under a law of a State or Territory that provides for the registration or licensing of healthcare practitioners to practice in a profession regulated by one of the national boards; or
(b) employed by an aged care service within the meaning of the *Aged Care Act 1997*; or
(c) employed by an NDIS provider within the meaning of the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013*; or
(d) employed by an educational institution, including pre-schools, schools and tertiary institutions; or
(e) an AFP appointee within the meaning of the *Australian Federal Police Act 1979*; or
(f) employed by a court or tribunal; or
(g) an APS employee, SES employee or Agency Head within the meaning of the *Public Service Act 1999*; or
(h) a Parliamentary Service employee, SES employee or Secretary within the meaning of the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999*; or
(i) employed in any retail or other business or service that a State or Territory government guideline or directive issued in response to the Coronavirus known as COVID-19 has deemed to be an essential business or service, or a business or service that a person is permitted to leave home to visit; or
(j) employed by any other type of employment prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this definition.

(13) Subsection (11) does not limit, and is not limited by, subsections (1) and (2).
Question—That the amendments be agreed to—put.

The committee divided—

AYES, 4

Senators—

Patrick  Siewert*  Waters  Whish-Wilson

NOES, 25

Senators—

Brockman  Fierravanti-Wells  McGrath  Ruston

Cash  Gallagher  McKenzie  Scarr

Ciccone  Hume  Molan  Seselja

Colbeck  Keneally  Paterson  Smith, Dean

Cormann  Kitching  Reynolds  Urquhart*

Davey  Lines  Roberts  Wong

* Tellers

Question negatived.

Bills agreed to and reported without amendments or requests.

On the motion of the Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann) the report from the committee was adopted and the bills were read a third time.

12 Committee membership

The Deputy President (Senator Lines) informed the Senate that the President had received letters nominating senators to be members of a committee.

The Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann), by leave, moved—That senators be appointed to the Select Committee on COVID-19 as follows:

Senators Davey, Gallagher, Keneally, Paterson, Siewert and Watt.


Question put and passed.

13 Next meeting of Senate and leave of absence

The Minister for Finance (Senator Cormann) moved—That:

(a) the President shall alter the day and time of the next meeting of the Senate at the request of, or the agreement of, the Leader of the Government in the Senate and the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, and the time of meeting shall be notified to each senator;
(b) the Senate may meet in a manner and form not otherwise provided in the standing orders with the agreement of the Leader of the Government in the Senate and the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, and that the rules and orders necessary to constitute such a meeting may be determined by the Procedure Committee; and

(c) leave of absence be granted to every member of the Senate from the end of the sitting today, to the day on which the Senate next meets.

The Leader of the Australian Greens in the Senate (Senator Waters) moved the following amendment:

Omit paragraph (a), substitute:

(a) the orders of the Senate of 14 November 2019 relating to the days of meeting and estimates hearings for 2020 apply, with effect from the end of today;

(aa) for the remainder of 2020, the President, at the request of the Leader of the Government in the Senate and the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate that the Senate meet on a later date, or at a later time, shall fix a date and time of meeting accordingly, and notify each senator;

(ab) a notification under paragraph (aa) must be given at least three working days prior to a proposed sitting day;

Debated ensued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 5

Patrick Siewert* Waters Whish-Wilson

NOES, 25

Brockman Gallagher McKenzie Sheldon
Cash Hume Molan Smith, Dean
Ciccone Keneally Paterson Urquhart*
Colbeck Kitching Reynolds Walsh
Cormann McAllister Ryan Watt
Davey McGrath Scarr Wong
Duniam

* Tellers

Question negatived.

Main question put and passed.

14 Governor-General’s messages—Assent to laws

Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were reported, informing the Senate that he had assented to the following laws:

24 March 2020—Message no. 6—


Assistance for Severely Affected Regions (Special Appropriation) (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act 2020 (Act no. 24, 2020)
Appropriation (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act (No. 1) 2019-2020 (Act no. 25, 2020)
Appropriation (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act (No. 2) 2019-2020 (Act no. 26, 2020)
Guarantee of Lending to Small and Medium Enterprises (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act 2020 (Act no. 29, 2020)
Supply Act (No. 1) 2020-2021 (Act no. 30, 2020)
Supply Act (No. 2) 2020-2021 (Act no. 31, 2020)
Supply (Parliamentary Departments) Act (No. 1) 2020-2021 (Act no. 32, 2020).
26 March 2020—Message no. 7—
Appropriation Act (No. 3) 2019-2020 (Act no. 33, 2020)
Appropriation Act (No. 4) 2019-2020 (Act no. 34, 2020)
Farm Household Support Amendment (Relief Measures) Act (No. 1) 2020 (Act no. 35, 2020)

15 Coronavirus Economic Response Package Omnibus Bill 2020
A message from the House of Representatives was reported agreeing to the amendments made by the Senate to the following bill:

16 Adjournment
Pursuant to order, the Senate adjourned at 10.50 pm till Tuesday, 11 August 2020 at midday.

17 Attendance

RICHARD PYE
Clerk of the Senate