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1 **MEETING OF SENATE**

The Senate met at 10 am. The President (Senator the Honourable Stephen Parry) took the chair, read prayers and made an acknowledgement of country.

2 **DOCUMENTS**

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


The following documents were tabled by the Clerk pursuant to statute:

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

- Banking Act 1959—Banking (consent to assume or use restricted word or expression) No. 1 of 2015 [F2015L01254].
- Corporations Amendment (Financial Services Information Lodgement Periods) Regulation 2015—Select Legislative Instrument 2015 No. 135 [F2015L01270].
Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984—Torres Strait Fisheries Logbook Instrument 2015 [F2015L01256].

Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986—
Veterans’ Entitlements (Veterans’ Children Education Scheme – Guidance and Counselling Services) Determination 2000 [F2015L01265].
Veterans’ Vocational Rehabilitation Scheme—2015 No. R11 [F2015L01263].

3 COMMITTEES—LEAVE TO MEET DURING SITTING
Committees were authorised to hold private meetings otherwise than in accordance with standing order 33(1) during the sitting of the Senate today, as follows:
Community Affairs Legislation Committee—from 1 pm, for the committee’s inquiries into the provisions of the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Amendment Bill 2015, and into the provisions of the Gene Technology Amendment Bill 2015.
Community Affairs References Committee—from 1 pm, for the committee’s inquiry into out of home care.
Health—Select Committee—from 3 pm.

4 BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY (IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY) BILL 2013
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY (CONSEQUENTIAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) BILL 2013
Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Assistant Minister for Health (Senator Nash)—That these bills be now read a second time.
Debate resumed.
Question put.
The Senate divided—

AYES, 33

Senators—

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5 \textbf{FAIR WORK (REGISTERED ORGANISATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 2014 [NO. 2]}

Order of the day read for the second reading of the bill.

The Minister for Employment (Senator Abetz) moved—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

\textit{At 2 pm:} Debate was interrupted while Senator Ludwig was speaking.

6 \textbf{QUESTIONS}

Questions without notice were answered.

7 \textbf{MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF ANSWERS}

Senator Collins moved—That the Senate take note of the answers given by ministers to all questions without notice asked today.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

8 \textbf{NOTICES}

Senator O’Sullivan: To move on the next day of sitting.—That the Senate notes that:

(a) it is the right of every Australian worker to be employed in an environment that is free of the threat of coercion or violence regardless of the industry in which they work;

(b) corruption, blackmail or thuggery has no place in the modern Australian workplace; and

(c) all political parties commit to protecting the rights of workers by eliminating any organisations that promote or undertake such behaviour in an Australian workplace. \textit{(general business notice of motion no. 809)}

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

(a) notes that:

\textindent (i) 18 August is Vietnam Veterans Day, and

\textindent (ii) some of those who have served or trained in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) overseas and in Australia have experienced trauma (including abuse), health and mental health challenges in the course of their service or training;
(b) acknowledges the importance of the William Kibby VC Veterans’ Shed in Glenelg North for providing a safe space for South Australian veterans to discuss past trauma, health issues and welfare issues with peers and other veterans; and

(c) acknowledges and welcomes the ongoing work of Mr Barry Heffernan OAM in his role as Welfare Coordinator at the Vietnam Veterans’ Association in South Australia, Shed Coordinator at the William Kibby VC Veterans’ Shed and as a leader in the ongoing battle for justice for those who experienced abuse while members of the ADF. (general business notice of motion no. 810)

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

(a) notes that:

(i) a newly-formed Western Australian initiative ‘Alongside’ is responding to the urgent educational, counselling and coping skill needs of families (partners and children), of first responders and Australian Defence Force (ADF) current and past service members all suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) – these families of our protective service members implicitly sacrifice some quality of life knowing the daily risks faced by their family members,

(ii) an ABC 720 Perth interview with the organisation leader in February 2015 introduced the PTSD factors impacting Western Australia’s police families, resulting in a flood of enquiries from the broader group covered by this motion, including over 20,000 tweets, more than 100 direct enquiries, and over 800 individuals who connected via Facebook, from across Australia,

(iii) the National Coronial Information System (NCIS) Intentional Self-Harm fact sheet shows that, between 2000 and 2012, one member of our emergency service personnel committed suicide every 6 weeks, a figure which the NCIS acknowledges largely underrepresents the scale of the problem, and that true data is only inferred by the tip of this iceberg – official reports of fatalities which include 62 police officers, 22 firefighters and 26 ambulance officers,

(iv) the 2010 ADF Mental Health Prevalence and Wellbeing Study reported that approximately 22 per cent (11,000) of the ADF population experienced a mental disorder in 2009-10, and around 7 per cent had co-morbid health diagnoses, with PTSD the most common, and

(v) children of a parent with PTSD are significantly more likely to have a mental health diagnosis due to intergenerational transmission of trauma, but accurate data on the broader impact of PTSD is elusive, with a distinct paucity of credible research on the effect from, implications of, and early to longer-term care options for, the families of PTSD first line sufferers – effectively these are people who are invisible to most of us, who are motivated to help the PTSD sufferer, and who endure a host of risks and threats to their wellbeing, without sufficient recognition or qualified support; and

(b) calls on the Government and this Parliament:

(i) to invest in a more focused yet holistic examination of the societal impact and consequences of our failure to adequately address the circumstances surrounding PTSD fallout as described in this motion, and
(ii) to seriously and urgently consider how Australia’s intellectual and physical resources can best be employed to bring about both a greater public awareness and sense of responsibility for protecting those who protect us, while investing in accredited remedial help in support of these families. (general business notice of motion no. 811)

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

(a) recognises that Prince of Wales Bay in Hobart was declared a Defence precinct by the previous Labor Government;

(b) notes that:

(i) the Tasmania Maritime Network, representing over 30 businesses, has an international reputation for building boats and has the skills to fit out boats, insulate them and provide communications and build modular units for significant and sophisticated vessels such as Australia’s Air Warfare Destroyers,

(ii) the network has partnered with a German firm and submitted a bid as part of the Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement Project, and

(iii) if successful, the bid would demonstrate the enormous capability of Tasmanian businesses and bring enormous social and economic benefits to Tasmania; and

(c) calls on the Minister for Defence (Mr Andrews) to:

(i) guarantee the Government’s commitment to the Tasmanian shipbuilding industry, and

(ii) confirm that the Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement Project will proceed as scheduled and be a fair and open process for all Australian yards and companies. (general business notice of motion no. 812)

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

(a) notes that:

(i) more than 10,000 jobs are directly dependent on BlueScope Steel’s operations in Port Kembla,

(ii) over 20 per cent of young people in the Wollongong region between 15 and 24 years of age are unemployed, and many more are under employed,

(iii) the Port Kembla steel works have been the backbone of the Illawarra economy for more than 80 years, and

(iv) the ‘New Steel Deal’ proposed by the South Coast Labour Council and the Australian Workers’ Union Port Kembla, and supported by many other stakeholders in the Illawarra, includes a public procurement framework mandating at least 50 per cent of Australian made steel in all federal and state infrastructure projects; and

(b) calls on the Government to give consideration to the New Steel Deal, and to commence discussions on the future of the Port Kembla steelworks with unions, BlueScope Steel management, the New South Wales State Government and other relevant stakeholders. (general business notice of motion no. 813)
9 **CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION**

The Assistant Minister for Social Services (Senator Fifield), by leave, moved—That standing orders 120(3) and 122(1) and (2) not apply to the consideration of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment Bill 2014 [No. 2].

Question put and passed.

10 **POSTPONEMENT**

Business was postponed as follows:

- General business notice of motion no. 674 standing in the names of Senators Rice and Wright for today, proposing the introduction of the Automotive Transformation Scheme Amendment (Sustainable Jobs in the Auto Component Industry) Bill 2015, postponed till 19 August 2015.

11 **COMMITTEE—EXTENSION OF TIME TO REPORT**

The following committee was granted an extension of time to report:

- Community Affairs References Committee—Commonwealth community service tendering processes by the Department of Social Services, extended to 9 September 2015.

12 **ECONOMICS REFERENCES COMMITTEE—REFERENCE**

Senator McAllister, also on behalf of Senators Edwards and Waters, 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—

(a) the Senate notes that, although women’s increasing workforce participation has contributed significantly to Australia’s economic productivity and to women’s financial independence, significant socio-economic disparity remains between men and women, illustrated by the pay gap between men and women which sits at 18.8 per cent and the gap in superannuation at retirement is 46.6 per cent; and

(b) the gender retirement income gap be referred to the Economics References Committee for inquiry and report by the first sitting day in March 2016, with particular reference to:

(i) the impact inadequate superannuation savings has on the retirement outcomes for women,

(ii) the extent of the gender retirement income gap and causes of this gap, and its potential drivers including the gender pay gap and women’s caring responsibilities,

(iii) whether there are any structural impediments in the superannuation system [impacting on the superannuation savings gap],

(iv) the adequacy of the main sources of retirement income for women, and

(v) what measures would provide women with access to adequate and secure retirement incomes, including:

(A) assistance to employers to assist female employees’ superannuation savings,

(B) government assistance, with reference to the success of previous schemes, and
(c) any possible reforms to current laws relating to superannuation, social security payments, paid parental leave, discrimination, or any other relevant measure.

Question put and passed.

13 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—TASMANIAN SPECIALTY TIMBER INDUSTRY

Senator O’Sullivan, also on behalf of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture (Senator Colbeck) and Senator Bushby, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 802—

That the Senate—

(a) notes:

(i) that the Tasmanian specialty timber industry accounts for over 2,000 full-time equivalent jobs and thousands more part-time hobbyists, and contributes over $70 million a year to the state’s economy,

(ii) the support of both the Tasmanian Premier (Mr Hodgman) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr Green) for the long-term sustainability of the iconic specialty timber industry, and

(iii) that the Australian Greens and the Australian Labor Party previously supported the continued low impact harvesting of special species timber in the 2013 extension of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area; and

(b) calls on the Australian Greens to abandon their policy backflip and work with the Tasmanian Government to protect the future of the mostly small-scale businesses that produce high value products that embody the essence of Tasmania’s culture and history.

Statements by leave: Senators Moore and Rice, by leave, made statements relating to the motion.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 35

Senator—

Back
Bernardi
Birmingham
Bushby (Teller)
Canavan
Cash
Colbeck
Day
Edwards
Fawcett
Fierravanti-Wells
Fifield
Heffernan
Johnston
Lambie
Lazarus
Leyonhjelm
Lindgren
Macdonald
Madigan
McGrath
McKenzie
Muir
O’Sullivan
Payne
Reynolds
Ronaldson
Rustin
Ryan
Scullion
Seselja
Smith
Wang
Williams
Xenophon
NOES, 29

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Question agreed to.

14 COMMUNICATIONS—TELEVISION—AUDIO DESCRIPTION SERVICES
Senator Siewert, pursuant to notice of motion not objected to as a formal motion, moved general business notice of motion no. 808—That the Senate—

(a) notes:

(i) that audio description (AD) is a flexible and unobtrusive way of making the visual content of television accessible to people who are blind or have low vision,

(ii) that modelling undertaken by Vision Australia shows that there are approximately 350,000 people in Australia who are blind or have low vision, with this number estimated to increase to 564,000 by 2030,

(iii) that under Article 30(b) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which Australia has ratified, the Government has an obligation to ensure that people with disabilities have access to television programs,

(iv) that Part 9D of the Broadcasting Services Act 1992 includes requirements for the provision of captions on television programs in order to make them accessible to people who are deaf or hearing-impaired,

(v) that, despite a successful trial of AD conducted by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) in 2012, the ABC does not provide AD on any of its free-to-air television services,

(vi) that the ABC is currently conducting a government-funded 15 month trial of AD on its ABC iview catch-up service, but that many people who are blind or have low vision experience significant barriers to accessing ABC iview, and

(vii) that the Special Broadcasting Service, Foxtel, and the commercial free-to-air television networks provide no AD in Australia;

(b) expresses concern that Australians who are blind or have low vision are disadvantaged because Australia lags behind many other countries, including the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland, Germany, Spain and New Zealand, which all provide varying levels of AD on television programs; and

(c) calls on the Government to amend the Broadcasting Services Act 1992 to include requirements for the provision of AD on free-to-air and subscription television programs by the ABC and all other networks, similar to captioning requirements.
Statement by leave: The Assistant Minister for Social Services (Senator Fifield), by leave, made a statement relating to the motion. Question put and passed.

15 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—LAW AND JUSTICE—MARRIAGE EQUALITY
The Deputy President (Senator Marshall) informed the Senate that Senator Moore had proposed that the following matter of public importance be submitted to the Senate for discussion:

The Prime Minister’s failure of leadership on marriage equality.
The proposal was supported by four senators and the matter was discussed.

16 DOCUMENTS—CONSIDERATION
The documents tabled earlier today (see entry no. 2) were called on but no motion was moved.

17 AUSTRALIAN RADIATION PROTECTION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY AMENDMENT BILL 2015
A message from the House of Representatives was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the Senate the following bill:


The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education and Training (Senator Ryan) 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 Ryan moved—that this bill be now read a second time.
On the motion of Senator Ryan the debate was adjourned till the next day of sitting.

18 MEDICAL RESEARCH FUTURE FUND (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 2015
MIGRATION AMENDMENT (STRENGTHENING BIOMETRICS INTEGRITY) BILL 2015
Messages from the House of Representatives were reported agreeing to the amendments made by the Senate to the following bills:

Message no. 428, dated 13 August 2015—Migration Amendment (Strengthening Biometrics Integrity) Bill 2015.
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE—REPORT—AUSTRALIAN RADIATION PROTECTION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY AMENDMENT BILL 2015

Pursuant to order, Senator O’Sullivan, at the request of the Chair of the Community Affairs Legislation Committee (Senator Seselja), tabled the following report and documents:


Hansard record of proceedings, additional information and submissions.

Report ordered to be printed on the motion of Senator O’Sullivan.

FAIR WORK (REGISTERED ORGANISATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 2014 [NO. 2]

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Employment (Senator Abetz)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

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

Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment Bill 2014 [No. 2]—Copy of letter from the Prime Minister (Mr Abbott) to Senator Lambie, dated 12 August 2015.

Debate continued.

Question put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 33

Senators—

Abetz Fawcett McGraith Ruston (Teller)
Back Fierravanti-Wells McKenzie Ryan
Bernardi Fifield Nash Seselja
Birmingham Heffernan O’Sullivan S未曾
Bushby Johnston Parry Smith
Canavan Leyonhjelm Payne Wang
Cash Lindgren Reynolds Williams
Colbeck Macdonald Ronaldson Xenophon
Day

NOES, 34

Senators—

Bilyk Ketter McLucas Siewert
Brown Lambie Moore Singh
Bullock Lazarus Muir Sterle
Cameron Lines O’Neill Urquhart
Collins Ludlam Polley Waters
Conroy Ludwig Rhiannon Whish-Wilson
Gallagher Marshall Rice Wong
Gallagher McAllister
Hanson-Young McEwen (Teller)

Question negatived.
21 **CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (POWERS, OFFENCES AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2015**

Order of the day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture (Senator Colbeck)—That this bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

*At 9.50 pm:* Debate was interrupted while Senator Collins was speaking.

22 **ADJOURNMENT**

The Acting Deputy President (Senator Whish-Wilson) proposed the question—that the Senate do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The Senate adjourned at 10.14 pm till Tuesday, 18 August 2015 at 12.30 pm.

23 **ATTENDANCE**

Present, all senators.

Rosemary Laing
Clerk of the Senate

Printed by authority of the Senate