



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



THE SENATE

PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE BILL 2006

PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE (TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 2006

PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE (PROSTHESES APPLICATION AND LISTING FEES) BILL 2006

PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE (COLLAPSED ORGANIZATION LEVY) AMENDMENT BILL 2006

**PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE
COMPLAINTS LEVY
AMENDMENT BILL 2006**

**PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE
(COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION
LEVY) AMENDMENT BILL 2006**

**PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE
(REINSURANCE TRUST FUND
LEVY) AMENDMENT BILL 2006**

In Committee

SPEECH

Friday, 23 March 2007

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE

SPEECH

Date Friday, 23 March 2007
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Questioner
Speaker McLucas, Sen Jan

Source Senate
Proof No
Responder
Question No.

Senator McLUCAS (Queensland) (10.51 am)—I concur with Senator Allison. We are not suggesting that PHIAC should have the ability to set premiums. It does not have that role at all; it is the regulator. But, if one of PHIAC's objectives is to minimise premiums, then decisions that it makes as a regulator will have to be made within that prism. We are mindful of the fact that one of its objectives is to keep the level of premiums down. By removing that objective, the regulator can make decisions without being mindful of keeping premiums down. It is an appropriate objective for a regulator to have. Yes, it has been in the act since 1989, which would indicate that the Labor Party was interested in keeping premiums down. I think the message to the community, if the government does not support this amendment, is that the government is big on rhetoric and small on effort to keep premiums at a minimum. It is disappointing that the government is not, from what I have heard, going to accept this fairly straightforward amendment.

Question negatived.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Senator Moore)—Senator Allison, are you proceeding with your amendment?