



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



**THE SENATE**

**BILLS**

**Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits  
Amendment (Fair Indexation) Bill 2010**

**In Committee**

**SPEECH**

**Thursday, 16 June 2011**

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE

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## SPEECH

**Date** Thursday, 16 June 2011  
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**Questioner**  
**Speaker** Xenophon, Sen Nick

**Source** Senate  
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**Responder**  
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**Senator XENOPHON** (South Australia) (11:01): Madam Chair, if I may briefly clarify this so there is no misunderstanding, I said in my contribution earlier that the government has counted that it will slash 1,000 civilian jobs from its procurement budget, although the opposition argues those 1,000 jobs are not current jobs, simply jobs that are expected to be created in the future—in other words, the opposition claims they are phantom cuts. So I think I was fairly representing what the opposition's public position was in relation to those job cuts. I hope that clarifies any misunderstanding on Senator Ronaldson's part. I was not having a go; I was simply recounting what I understand to be the public comments of the opposition, saying that what the government says are job cuts are phantom cuts because they are not jobs that actually exist. Hopefully, there was no misunderstanding in relation to that.