

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SELECTION COMMITTEE

REPORT No. 15

Committee and delegation business

and

private Members' business

2 August 2023

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Chair	Hon M Dick MP Speaker
Members	Ms J Ryan MP (Chief Government Whip)
	Mr B van Manen MP (Chief Opposition Whip)
	Mr S Bates MP
	Ms A Byrnes MP
	Hon M Coulton MP
	Dr M Freeland MP
	Dr C Garland MP
	Hon M Price MP
	Mr R Ramsey MP
	Ms T Roberts MP
	Ms R Sharkie MP
	Mr D Smith MP
	Ms A Stanley MP

Ms S Claydon MP, Deputy Speaker

This committee is supported by staff of the Department of the House of Representatives

Report relating to the consideration of committee and delegation business and of private Members' business

1. The Committee met in private session on Tuesday, 1 August 2023.
2. The Committee deliberated on items of committee and delegation business that had been notified, private Members' business items listed on the Notice Paper and notices lodged on Tuesday, 1 August 2023, and determined the order of precedence and times on Monday, 7 August 2023, as follows:

Items for House of Representatives Chamber (10.10 am to 12 noon)

COMMITTEE AND DELEGATION BUSINESS

Presentation and statements

1 Standing Committee on Procedure

Raising the Standard: Inquiry into recommendations 10 and 27 of Set the Standard: Report on the Independent Review into Commonwealth Parliamentary Workplaces

The Committee determined that statements on the report may be made — all statements to conclude by 10.20 am.

Speech time limits —

Mr Neumann — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 2 x 5 mins]

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Notices

- 1 **MS CHANEY:** To present a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to electoral matters, and for related purposes. (*Electoral Legislation Amendment (Restoring Trust) Bill 2023*)

(Notice given 1 August 2023.)

Presenter may speak to the second reading for a period not exceeding 10 minutes — pursuant to standing order 41. Debate must be adjourned pursuant to standing order 142.

2 MS BELL: To move—That this House:

- (1) recognises that:
 - (a) the Government’s Cheaper Child Care policy has driven up the cost of early childhood education and care for families across Australia since it was implemented on 1 July 2023;
 - (b) families are reporting increases to the cost of their daily fees in excess of \$20 per day;
 - (c) the Government’s inability to manage the cost of living crisis in Australia is driving up the cost of rent, mortgages, groceries and everyday bills, like early childhood education and care bills, for Australian families;
 - (d) the Government’s inaction to address workforce shortages is limiting access to early childhood education and care for families; and
 - (e) families continue to be unable to access early childhood education and care, particularly in regional and rural areas; and
- (2) calls on the Government to deliver:
 - (a) more access to early childhood education and care places to support Australians to return to the workforce; and
 - (b) real cost of living relief to families.

(Notice given 31 July 2023.)

Time allotted — 35 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Ms Bell — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 7 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

Orders of the day

1 SOCIAL HOUSING: Resumption of debate (*from 31 July 2023*) on the motion of Dr Ananda-Rajah—That this House:

- (1) notes the Government’s announcement of a new \$2 billion Social Housing Accelerator to deliver thousands of new social rental homes across Australia;
- (2) acknowledges the Government’s commitment to an ambitious housing agenda which will boost the supply of all housing, with more social housing, more affordable housing, more homes to rent and more homes to buy, and includes:
 - (a) establishing the Regional First Home Buyer Guarantee three months early, helping regional Australians purchase a home with as little as a 5 per cent deposit and avoiding paying Lenders’ Mortgage Insurance;
 - (b) widening the remit of the National Housing Infrastructure Facility, making up to \$575 million available to invest immediately in social and affordable rental homes, with projects already under construction as a result of this funding;

- (c) working with the states and territories through the National Housing Accord and National Cabinet to support planning and zoning reforms to contribute to the aspiration of building one million new homes over 5 years from 2024, as well as investing \$350 million in additional federal funding to deliver 10,000 affordable rental homes over five years from 2024 as part of the accord – matched by the states and territories;
 - (d) further establishing the interim National Housing Supply and Affordability Council to provide expert advice to Government on housing supply and affordability;
 - (e) delivering the largest increase to Commonwealth Rent Assistance in more than 30 years, with a 15 per cent increase in the maximum rates;
 - (f) increasing the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation’s liability cap by \$2 billion to provide lower cost and longer-term finance to community housing providers through the Affordable Housing Bond Aggregator;
 - (g) providing tax incentives to encourage more build-to-rent developments to boost new supply in the private rental market;
 - (h) further providing an additional \$67.5 million of funding to the states and territories to help tackle homelessness challenges as part of a one-year extension to the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement which provides \$1.7 billion a year to the states and territories for housing and homelessness services; and
 - (i) expanding eligibility for the Home Guarantee Scheme, which helps people purchase a home sooner by reducing the deposit they need to save; and
- (3) condemns the Opposition and the Australian Greens for blocking the Housing Australia Future Fund, and notes that every day of delay is \$1.3 million not being spent on social and affordable housing for Australians who need it today.

Time allotted —35 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Dr Ananda-Rajah — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 7 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

Notices – continued

3 DR M RYAN: To move—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges that lobbying can result in the development of policies that favour the interests of private corporations over the interests of the Australian public;
- (2) notes that there is a lack of transparency over the relationship between lobbyists and Ministerial offices;
- (3) recognises that breaches of the Lobbying Code of Conduct are rarely identified by the Attorney-General’s Department and that there are currently no serious penalties for breaching the Lobbying Code of Conduct; and

- (4) commits to:
- (a) extending the Register of Lobbyists to include registered professional lobbyists acting on behalf of third parties, services firms and lobbyists acting on behalf of businesses and industry bodies;
 - (b) extending the cooling-off period for former MPs and senior government officials to three years in keeping with international best practice;
 - (c) introducing new penalties for breaching the Lobbying Code of Conduct, such as suspending lobbyists from operating for up to two years; and
 - (d) ensuring the National Anti-Corruption Commission has the ability to investigate alleged breaches of the Lobbying Code of Conduct and enforce penalties.

(Notice given 1 August 2023.)

Time allotted — remaining private Members' business time prior to 12 noon.

Speech time limits —

Dr M Ryan — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking = 4 x 5 mins]

The Committee determined that consideration of this matter should continue on a future day.

Items for Federation Chamber (11 am to 1.30 pm)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Notices

1 MR FLETCHER: To move—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges that:
 - (a) the digital economy plays a critical role in the Australian economy, helping to drive economic growth and create new jobs;
 - (b) the Government has not:
 - (i) provided sufficient funding in the budget to help grow the digital economy;
 - (ii) produced a digital economy strategy; and
 - (c) the Government abolished the role of the Minister for the digital economy; and
- (2) calls on the Government to prioritise the digital economy by:
 - (a) providing funding in sufficient levels to advance Australia's digital economy;
 - (b) delivering a digital economy strategy to make Australian a world-leading digital economy; and
 - (c) appointing a Minister responsible for the digital economy.

(Notice given 9 May 2023.)

Time allotted — 35 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Mr Fletcher — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 7 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

2 MS THWAITES: To move—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges the release of the report of the Royal Commission into the Robodebt Scheme, a 990-page report that examined the establishment of the scheme and who was responsible for it, and made 57 recommendations;
- (2) recognises that the Robodebt Scheme, which was put forward as a budget measure in 2015 and was found to be unlawful by the Federal Court in late 2019, caused great harm to vulnerable members of the Australian community;
- (3) notes that despite the mounting warnings and criticism of the scheme, in the words of the report the Government of the time ‘continued to illegally raise debts against some of society’s most vulnerable’;
- (4) commends the courage, leadership and bravery of victims, families, advocates and whistle-blowers who continued to raise concerns about the Robodebt Scheme; and
- (5) welcomes the Government’s commitment to ensuring such a tragedy never happens again, and to carefully consider the recommendations from the report and provide a response to these recommendations in due course.

(Notice given 31 July 2023.)

Time allotted — 40 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Ms Thwaites — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 8 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

3 MR CHANDLER-MATHER: To move—That this House:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) that the Government has committed to funding \$3.4 billion of the \$7 billion Olympics infrastructure, in the middle of a cost living crisis, when it refuses to invest more than \$500 million a year in social and affordable housing;
 - (b) that the average cost blow-out of an Olympics since 1960 is 2.5 times the original cost, which would see the cost of the Brisbane Olympics blow-out to \$17.5 billion; and
 - (c) the recent decision by the Victorian Government to cancel the Commonwealth Games so as to save money for schools and hospitals; and

- (2) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) drop its support for the disastrous Gabba demolition and rebuild that will see the bulldozing of a local public school, East Brisbane State School, and Raymond Park, a much loved public park;
 - (b) re-negotiate a new Olympics infrastructure agreement that actually prioritises using existing infrastructure, like Carrara Stadium, and instead invests in new public transport and other long term community infrastructure; and
 - (c) commit that any infrastructure built for the Olympics remains in public hands, including retaining the athletes' village as publicly-owned housing.

(Notice given 1 August 2023.)

Time allotted — 20 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Mr Chandler-Mather — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 4 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

4 MS SCRYMGOUR: To move—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges the sustained and dedicated effort by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) to increase the enrolment of all Australians, with a particular focus on the two cohorts of Australians who have long been under-represented on the electoral roll, being First Nations Australians and young people aged between 18 and 24 years;
- (2) recognises that as a result of the Government ensuring the AEC had the appropriate resources to improve enrolment:
 - (a) for the first time in since records have existed, enrolment of Australians aged between 18 and 24 year is now over 90 per cent; and
 - (b) estimated First Nations enrolment has increased in every state and territory to the highest it has ever been so that:
 - (i) nationwide it is now at 94.1 per cent, up from 84.5 per cent just six months ago; and
 - (ii) in the Northern Territory it is now at 87.0 per cent, up from 76.7 per cent six months ago; and
- (3) condemns the former Government, for failing to appropriately resource the AEC to take action to improve enrolment of First Nations Australians, including by cutting AEC personnel in the Northern Territory who were addressing these matters.

(Notice given 1 August 2023.)

Time allotted — 20 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Ms Scrymgour — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 4 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

5 MR HOWARTH: To move—That this House:

(1) notes that:

- (a) under the current Government, decisions to conduct review after review into defence and defence industry have resulted in unreasonable delays in awarding contracts; and
- (b) these delays have led to uncertainty for small and medium enterprises, threatening many businesses, and forcing them to consider leaving the industry;

(2) acknowledges that:

- (a) the Government's agreed recommendation from the Defence Strategic Review, stating that Australian industry content and domestic production should be balanced against timely capability acquisition, requires financial support from the Government;
- (b) without such support, there is a risk of losing more contracts overseas;
- (c) the Government's agreed recommendation from the Defence Strategic Review, calling for an increase in defence funding to meet our strategic circumstances, has not been met in the 2023-2024 budget;
- (d) the Government should legislate a minimum number of missiles stockpiled to ensure Australia's National Security; and
- (e) the Government's disconnect with Australia's defence industry should alarm all Australians because it shows a lack of understanding of the challenges facing Australia's defence industry; and

(3) calls on the Government to take real action in supporting and growing Australia's sovereign defence industry and boosting Australia's dwindling defence budget.

(Notice given 1 August 2023.)

*Time allotted — remaining private Members'
business time prior to 1.30 pm.*

Speech time limits —

Mr Howarth — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 7 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

Items for Federation Chamber (4.45 pm to 7.30 pm)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Notices – continued

6 MR CHESTER: To move—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges that:
 - (a) we have a world-class and sustainable native hardwood timber industry in Australia which delivers social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits for our nation;
 - (b) timber industry workers provide invaluable skills and practical support to their communities during times of natural disasters, particularly bushfires;
 - (c) banning native timber harvesting in Australia will result in more imported timber products, often sourced from countries with poorer environmental protocols; and
 - (d) a sustainable native hardwood timber industry is part of the answer to reducing Australia's carbon emissions as timber products sequester carbon in our floorboards, furniture and other timber products;
- (2) notes that the Victorian Government's illogical decision to ban all native hardwood timber harvesting on public land from 1 January 2024 is based on political science, not environmental science; and
- (3) urges the Government to:
 - (a) recognise the sustainable native hardwood timber industry is an issue of national importance because of supply chain considerations and community safety;
 - (b) include the future of the native hardwood timber industry as an issue for discussion at the next National Cabinet; and
 - (c) support a taxpayer-funded public information campaign to explain the importance of the native hardwood timber industry and dispel the myths perpetuated by environmental activists.

(Notice given 21 June 2023.)

Time allotted — 40 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Mr Chester — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 8 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

7 MR RAE: To move—That this House:

- (1) recognises that the Government continues to strengthen Medicare through delivering the important service of the planned 58 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics which will take pressure off our emergency departments; and

- (2) notes that Medicare Urgent Care Clinics are designed to make it easier for Australian families to see a doctor or a nurse when they have an urgent, but not life threatening, need for care that is bulk billed.

(Notice given 1 August 2023.)

Time allotted — 40 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Mr Rae — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 8 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

8 MR VAN MANEN: To move—That this House:

- (1) recognises that:

- (a) since 2007, the National Student Wellbeing Program (formerly the National School Chaplaincy Program) has been assisting Australian students in key areas, fostering student wellbeing, increasing connectedness and school and community engagement through tailored pastoral care;
- (b) on average, chaplains have 15,724 conversations with students per week, across the country;
- (c) every term, chaplains run 7,025 programs, supporting 313,109 students; and
- (d) the program works and is delivering measurable results for children, and
- (e) a 2022 report from the University of Western Australia entitled, *An Outcome Evaluation of School Chaplaincy* noted the program had a considerable impact on:
 - (i) improved attendance;
 - (ii) a focus on learning; and
 - (iii) improved behaviour.

- (2) notes that:

- (a) since its creation, under Prime Minister Howard's Government, the Coalition has supported the work of the National Student Wellbeing Program; and
- (b) by providing further funding of \$245.7 million, the previous Government reaffirmed this commitment to the \$60 million a year program, which provides \$20,000 towards the cost of hiring a chaplain for over 3,000 schools; and

- (3) thanks all chaplains for their ongoing efforts in providing social, emotional and spiritual support to Australian students.

(Notice given 21 March 2023.)

Time allotted — 30 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Mr van Manen — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 6 x 5]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

9 MS J RYAN: To move—That this House:

- (1) notes the Government's commitment to stand up for casual workers who want to become permanent employees;
- (2) recognises that this:
 - (a) will help more than 850,000 casual workers who have regular work arrangements, giving them greater access to leave entitlements and more financial security if desired;
 - (b) delivers on the Government's election commitment, ensuring that where a worker's pattern of work is no longer casual, they have the choice to move to permanent employment and gain the benefits of secure employment; and
 - (c) forms part of a broader set of reforms to be introduced into Parliament later this year aimed at closing loopholes that undermine wages and conditions; and
- (3) acknowledges this is just part of the Government's commitment to deliver a better future for Australian workers, building on the strong foundations in the Secure Jobs, Better Pay legislation passed in December 2022.

(Notice given 1 August 2023.)

Time allotted — 40 minutes.

Speech time limits —

Ms J Ryan — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 8 x 5 mins]

*The Committee determined that consideration
of this matter should continue on a future day.*

10 MR BROADBENT: To move—That this House:

- (1) endorses the inalienable rights and freedoms of all Australians to make their own choices about their health and wellbeing, free from government interference;
- (2) recognises that ongoing discriminatory and redundant COVID-19 vaccine mandates are wreaking untold economic, social and psychological damage on many Australians who are still unable to work due to these mandates;
- (3) notes the COVID-19 clinical trials did not include carcinogenic, toxicology, immunotoxicity or genotoxicity studies in humans prior to being provisionally approved;
- (4) acknowledges that as at 1 March 2023, there have been 137,606 cases of adverse reactions and 981 deaths reported on the Therapeutic Goods Administration Database of Adverse Events Notifications; and

- (5) calls on the Government to:
- (a) immediately intervene to prevent state and territory governments from mandating COVID-19 vaccines;
 - (b) review the rollout of vaccines until data around adverse reactions is investigated;
 - (c) broaden the Government's COVID-19 compensation scheme to include all COVID-19 vaccine injuries, not just those recognised by the sponsors and address processing delays; and
 - (d) delay the purchase and procurement of further COVID-19 vaccines until a proper risk/benefit analysis has been conducted; and
 - (e) legislate that taking the vaccine should be a decision between individuals and their health care providers.

(Notice given 20 March 2023.)

Time allotted — remaining private Members' business time prior to 7.30 pm.

Speech time limits —

Mr Broadbent — 5 minutes.

Other Members — 5 minutes each.

[Minimum number of proposed Members speaking
= 3 x 5 mins]

The Committee determined that consideration of this matter should continue on a future day.

THE HON D. M. DICK MP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

2 August 2023



27 APR, 2023

Teacher disgusted at way vaccine victims are treated

The Australian, Australia

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Teacher disgusted at way vaccine victims are treated

CHRISTINE MIDDAP

A Melbourne primary school teacher who required open heart surgery following his Covid Pfizer vaccination is one of three lead applicants in a class action against medicines regulator the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

Gareth O'Gradie, 41, a married father of two, developed recurrent pericarditis (inflammation of the lining around the heart) in July 2021, six days after his first Covid jab. Over the next eight months he spent 89 days in hospital, including three days in intensive care after his surgery, and is still unable to return to full-time work.

He is joined by two other lead claimants: Antonio Derose, 66, who developed encephalomyelitis (inflammation in the brain and spinal cord) following his Astra-Zeneca jab; and Anthony Rose, 47, who claims severe cognitive im-

pairment and chronic fatigue following his Moderna vaccination. They represent a group of about 500 people who have expressed interest in joining the class action.

The lawsuit, filed in the Federal Court on Wednesday, alleges negligence by the TGA in its approval and monitoring of Covid-19 vaccines and is seeking compensation for people who have been seriously injured.

Respondents named in the action include the Australian government, the Department of Health and Aged Care secretary Brendan Murphy, who is soon to retire, and the former deputy secretary of Health Products Regulation Group, John Skerritt.

"The action will argue that the Therapeutic Goods Administration did not fulfil its duty to properly regulate the Covid-19 vaccines, resulting in considerable harm and damage to Australians," solicitor Natalie Strijland from

NR Barbi Solicitor said.

The TGA has insisted that the protective benefits of vaccination far outweigh the potential risks and on its website says suspected side effects are closely monitored: "This is the most intensive safety. However, like all medicines, the provisionally approved Covid-19 vaccinations do carry risks of side effects, most of them mild. The federal government's Covid vaccination claims scheme was established as a safety net for the most serious cases, but applicants and

lawyers have long argued that is too cumbersome and restrictive and it has only paid out a tiny percentage of claims.

Queensland GP Melissa McCann, who organised crowd-funding for the class action, said the claims process was failing to help those who need it most.

"Many vaccine-injured Australians who cannot access compensation through the Services Australia scheme now find themselves abandoned, with no support, Dr McCann said.

Mr O'Gradie says he is disgusted at the way people with legitimate side effects have been treated, and he joined the class action to help fight for fair and reasonable compensation. He says it is not an anti-vaccination stance. "I am pro medicine, I am pro science. I worry about the anti-vaccine lobby piggybacking on this," he says.

He adds that as a teacher who worked with immune-compromised people, he was keen to be vaccinated from the outset.

However, six days after his first Pfizer shot he experienced severe chest pains and shortness of breath and went to hospital fearing he was having a heart attack.

He was diagnosed with pericarditis, a condition his physicians

linked to his vaccination.

When medicines failed to help, he underwent open heart surgery to remove the pericardium, the sac that surrounds the heart.

The surgery has helped but the symptoms have lingered and he is unable to return to teaching because he is on immunosuppressants that make him vulnerable to other illnesses.

"I would love to teach again, but that is not going to happen in the near future while I am immune compromised. Unless I get better, I'm looking at office work in an isolated role."



O'Gradie