

2004-05-06-07

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 193

MONDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2007

- 
- 
- 1 The House met, at 12.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable David Hawker) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—REPORT—STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**  
The Speaker presented the following document:  
Australian Parliamentary Delegation to Canada and Germany (14 to 28 April 2007)—Report, September 2007—  
and made a statement in connection with the report.
- 3 **ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENT—REFERENCE TO MAIN COMMITTEE**  
Dr Washer (Chair) presented the following documents (sent to the Speaker on 6 September 2007, pursuant to standing order 247):  
Environment and Heritage—Standing Committee—Sustainability for survival: Creating a climate for change—Inquiry into a sustainability charter—  
Report, August 2007.  
Minutes of proceedings.  
Report ordered to be made a Parliamentary Paper.  
Statements in connection with the report were made.  
Dr Washer moved—That the House take note of the report.  
In accordance with sessional order 39, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.  
Dr Washer moved—That the order of the day be referred to the Main Committee for debate.  
Question—put and passed.
- 4 **PROCEDURE COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF DOCUMENT**  
Mrs May (Chair) presented the following documents:  
Procedure Committee—Making a difference: Petitioning the House of Representatives—  
Report, August 2007.  
Minutes of proceedings.  
Report ordered to be made a Parliamentary Paper.  
Statements in connection with the report were made.  
Mrs May moved—That the House take note of the report.  
In accordance with sessional order 39, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- (c) the chemotherapy agent Alimta is the only treatment registered for use in mesothelioma, and in combination with Cisplatin, represents the ‘gold standard’ for mesothelioma treatment in Australia;
  - (d) treatment by Alimta can significantly increase a patient’s survival time as well as improve a patient’s quality of life in its final stages;
  - (e) Alimta is listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for persons who have contracted lung cancer for smoking, but is not approved for patients with mesothelioma;
  - (f) access to Alimta for mesothelioma patients is currently inequitable across Australia, with some States and companies providing various schemes to compensate victims of asbestos exposure and some patients having to pay for Alimta privately at great expense; and
  - (g) the UK National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recently approved the use of Alimta in the treatment of mesothelioma sufferers and the governments of France, Sweden and Japan subsidise the drug for sufferers in those countries; and
- (2) calls on the Government to take all necessary action to support the inclusion of Alimta on the PBS for the treatment of all mesothelioma sufferers.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

#### 15 MISSING ISRAELI SOLDIERS

Mrs Mirabella, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) Palestinian terrorists infiltrated Israel’s sovereign border from the Gaza Strip on 25 June 2006, attacked an army post inside Israel’s sovereign territory and kidnapped Corporal Gilad Shalit into Gaza;
  - (b) on 12 July 2006—in a similar aggressive cross-border attack from southern Lebanon—Hizbollah terrorists infiltrated sovereign Israeli territory and kidnapped Israeli Defence Force Reservists Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev;
  - (c) there is no territorial dispute between Israel and Lebanon, since Israel withdrew from her security zone in May 2000, under the supervision of the United Nations; and
  - (d) these young soldiers were serving their active duty within Israel’s borders and now, for more than nine months, have been denied their basic human rights; and
- (2) urges the Government to exert pressure on the terrorist organisations, their supporters and financial backers in the Gaza Strip and southern Lebanon, so that the missing soldiers are returned unharmed to their families and the country of Israel.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for private members’ business having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

#### 16 GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 44, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired—

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

#### 17 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS

A message from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following bills:

14 September 2007—Message No. 344—

Therapeutic Goods Amendment 2007.

Northern Territory National Emergency Response Amendment (Alcohol) 2007.